BLACK LABEL

JENNY SPARKS

TOM KING • JEFF SPOKES

JENNY SPARKS

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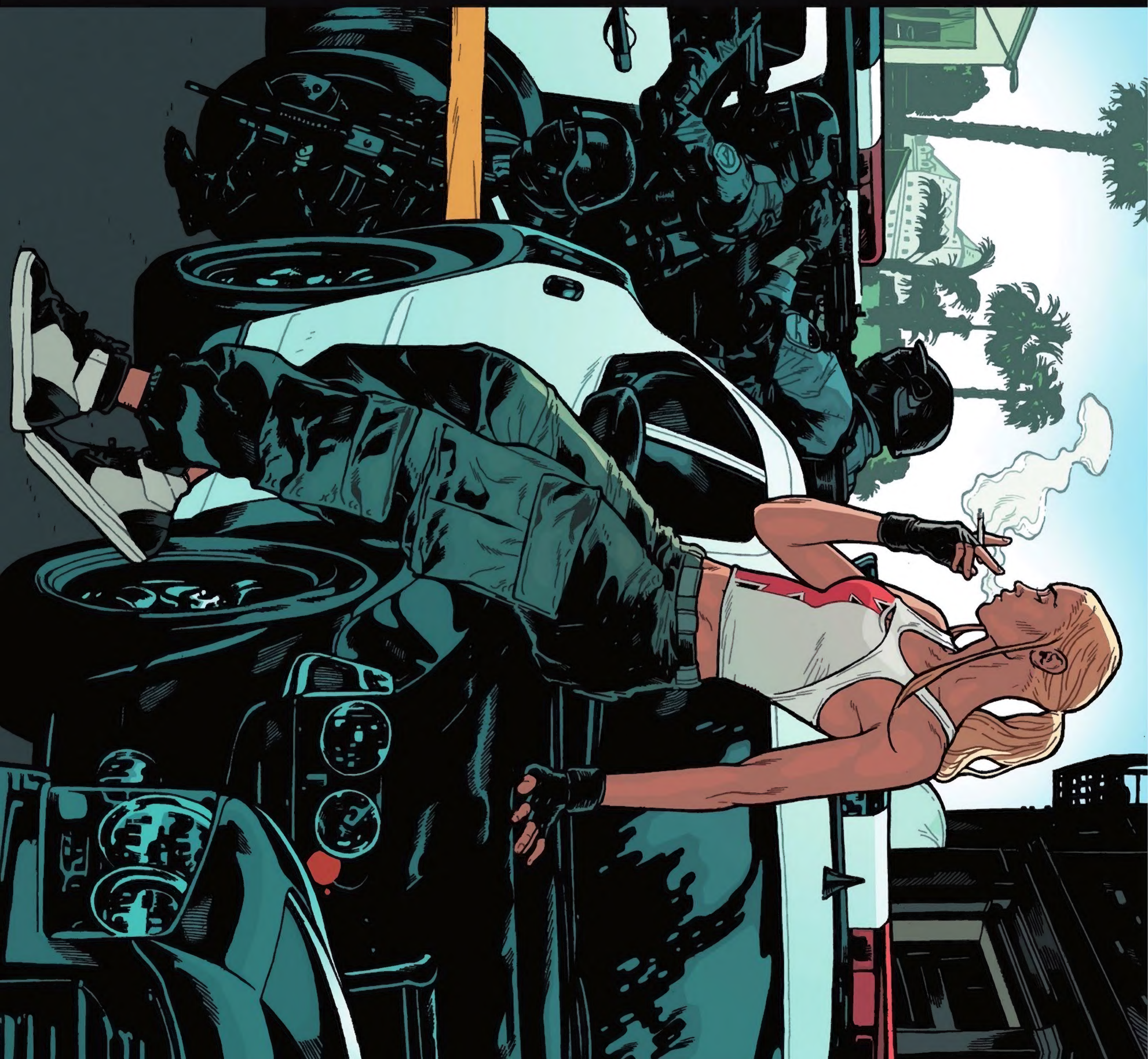

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JENNY SPARKS

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Jenny Sparks #1 variant cover art
by Guillem March

SAVE THE WORLD.

THEY DESERVE IT.

BE BETTER.

OR I'LL COME BACK AND KICK YOUR HEADS IN.

click

C'MON, *DAVEY,* MAKE THE CALL. GO OR *DON'T* GO. *DECLARE* YOURSELF, MAN!

WE GOT TO GET *HOME.* IT'S *NAP* TIME.

SO YEAH, DOCTOR, I *GET* IT. I WAS LONELY AS A KID, BUT SO *WHAT?* LIKE, IT WASN'T *THAT* BAD.

I DIDN'T GET *BEATEN UP* OR ANYTHING. I MEAN, IS THAT *ENOUGH?*

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE MORE *NORMAL.* NOT SAYING *NORMAL* IS A THING, BUT I GUESS IF IT WERE A THING, YOU KNOW, *THAT* SHOULD BE ME.

DON'T FORGET, SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, I HAVE THE *LATE* MEETING WITH THE REST OF THE BENCH.

SO YOU HAVE TO GET JANEY TO PRACTICE. MAKE SURE SHE'S KICKING WITH THE INSIDE OF HER FOOT. SHE'S DOING THAT *TOE* THING TOO MUCH.

I *GOT* IT, *DANI,* NO WORRIES. INSIDE FOOT.

son Welles, Joh

HEY *PROFESSOR,* TEMPERATURE ALL RIGHT HERE?

IT'S *FINE,* MR. GARCIA, THANK YOU.

LET'S SEE IF WE HAVE SOME ROOM EARLY *NEXT* WEEK. THEY HAVE THE DRAFT CONTRACT ALREADY--THEY DON'T NEED ME TO *WALK* THROUGH IT WITH THEM.

THEY *DO,* BUT THEY *SHOULDN'T,* AND RON IS THE PRIORITY OR ELSE *JOSH* IS GOING TO THROW A FIT.

I'LL CALL OVER. ANYTHING ELSE?

AAAAH!

GRIZZ

DON'T. PLEASE.

THEY'LL *ALL* HEAR YOU.

HOLY @#%#.

IS THAT @$#@$% *BATMAN?!*

WE'VE *LOST* HIM.

YOU, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

UH... IT'S, UH... UH...

ALEX.

YEAH.

MORNING, *ALEX.* I'M *JENNY.* BEEN A PLEASURE.

YOU MIND GETTING THE *@#%$* OUT SO I CAN HAVE A CHAT WITH THE *WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE* HERE?

:COUGH:
:COUGH:

UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE TO *INTERRUPT* OURSELVES FOR THE DAY.

:COUGH: LET'S PICK IT UP *NEXT* WEEK.

FULL DOCKET TODAY, YOUR HONOR.

:SIGH: ANNIE, YOU MUST BE AS *EXHAUSTED* SAYING THAT AS I AM *HEARING* IT.

TELL THE *BAILIFF* I'M READY. AND *COFFEE,* PLEASE. *SO* MUCH COFFEE. THE GIRLS HAD ME UP *HALF* THE NIGHT. DIFFERENT HALVES.

SANDY, YEAH... SANDY, *LISTEN,* YOU DON'T THINK I DISAGREE WITH YOU, DO YOU?

BUT THAT PART IS *@$%#%.* THE DIRECTOR IS GOOD, OKAY, YES, BUT HIS LAST *THREE* OPENINGS, LET'S BE HONEST...

...NO, I'M NOT SAYING *ART* IS BAD, JESUS. I'M NOT *A @#%@# IDIOT* HERE. I'M *HERE* FOR THE ART. ALL I'M SAYING IS WHAT'S WRONG WITH *MONEY?*

WHAT THE *@$%@$,* DUDE!

GRZZZZZZGGHHHHHHH...

RRGACHHHHHHHHZZZZ

5.

GOOD *MORNING* AND WELCOME AGAIN TO *CINEMA INFLUENCES: KEATON TO LEE.*

PROFESSOR *JAXON* IS ATTENDING THE, *UHM,* TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL, AS YOU KNOW.

SO I'LL BE STANDING IN FOR HIM TODAY AS WE DISCUSS *FORD* AND *WELLES.* MY FIRST TIME.

MY NAME IS PROFESSOR *ERICA YELLIN.* IT'S A *PLEASURE* TO MEET YOU ALL. I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS.

Orson Welles, John Ford, and the Use of Deep Focus

Erica Yellin

AND WHERE'RE YOUR *BEST MATES* NOW?

CLARK IS CIRCLING LOS ANGELES. X-RAY VISION'S HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE RADIATION *CAPTAIN ATOM* IS PUTTING OUT.

HE'S TRYING TO USE HIS EARS, BUT IT'S A *LOUD* CITY.

DIANA IS ON PARADISE, HAS BEEN ALERTED, AND IS STANDING BY.

@$%#.

YOU HAVE A *LIGHT?*

I'M HERE OUT OF *COURTESY,* MS. SPARKS.

THIS SITUATION IS BEYOND OUR *AGREEMENT.*

THIS ISN'T *DOLL MAN.*

FIRST, DOLL MAN WAS NO *STROLL* THROUGH SOHO. THE PERVERTED @$@$% WENT INTO MY *EAR.*

SECOND, I DON'T RIGHTLY RECALL *YOU THREE* SPECIFYING ANY *LIMITS.*

WASN'T THAT THE *POINT* OF THE THING, IN FACT?

ATOM IS AN *S-LEVEL* SUPERHUMAN.

AND WHAT ARE *YOU?*

BESIDES A *MAN* WITHOUT A *LIGHT?*

BOOM

I APPRECIATE YOU TELLING ME *IN PERSON.* I *SURELY* DO.

THOUGH WHEN WE HAVE A *MOMENT* OR TWO, WE'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS YOU COMING INTO *MY* BEDROOM WITHOUT *ASKING.*

BUT, *BRUCE,* YOUR WORK IS *DONE* NOW.

TELL THE *BOY SCOUT* AND THE *PRETTY PRINCESS* THERE ARE *OTHER* BATTLES TO FIGHT.

THEN GO BACK TO *GOTHAM* AND PLAYING FOOTSIE WITH ALL YOUR *REAL* FRIENDS. THE *BIRDS* AND THE LEAVES AND THE *CLOWNS.*

PLAYTIME IS OVER.

THE *GROWN-UPS* HAVE *WORK* TO DO.

IT'S VERY *NICE* HERE. DO *YOU* COME HERE EVERY DAY?

I LIKE TO FEED THE *PIGEONS.*

YOU *DO?*

WHY?

I DON'T *KNOW.* THEY'RE *HUNGRY.*

AREN'T *YOU* HUNGRY? WHO FEEDS *YOU?*

SHUT UP, YOU'RE *WEIRD.*

LEAVE ME *ALONE.*

YOU KNOW, I COULD *COOK* THEM FOR YOU RIGHT NOW. WE COULD HAVE A *FEAST.* THE TWO OF US.

LIKE *GODS* OF OLD, STRADDLING THE MOUNTAINTOP, THE WASTE AND FATE OF *ALL* HUMANITY SPREAD BEFORE US.

OUR LIPS *DRIPPING* WITH THE *GREASE* OF THEIR BODIES AND SOULS.

I'M *FEEDING* THEM. SHUT UP.

THIS IS THE *PROBLEM* WITH THE WORLD TODAY.

NOBODY WANTS TO BE *GOD* ANYMORE.

HERE YOU GO, *SWEETIE.* EAT IT *ALL* UP.

CRAKK

The Beverly Hills

YES, THIS IS ROOM *3737.*

CAN YOU *PLEASE* SEND OUT A FELLOW FOR TWO CARTONS OF *REDS* AND A BOTTLE OF *PAPPY?* 23-YEAR-OLD, *AT LEAST.*

YES, CHARGE IT TO THE *ROOM.*

THANK YOU.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, *LOS ANGELES.*

YOU KNOW...

...I BELIEVE I @$%#@% CLARK GABLE *AND* HIS BOYFRIEND IN THIS *VERY* ROOM.

HE *HITS* ME SOMETIMES, BUT THIS TIME HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO SOME... SOME *WORSE* THINGS, AND MY MOM SAID I SHOULD GET *PAPER* ON HIM.

I DON'T GOT A LAWYER OR *ANYTHING.*

NO *NEED* FOR A LAWYER WITH AN ORDER OF *RESTRAINT.*

WE CAN DO THAT FOR YOU *TODAY,* MS. COLON.

DR. BOWLES... DR. *BOWLES,* DID YOU HEAR ME...

ARE YOU...

DR. BOWLES, YOU *OKAY?*

ARROOF ARROOOF!

YOU STAY HERE, *DAVEY.* YOU BE A *GOOD* DOG.

DADDY WILL BE HOME AFTER HIS SHIFT. BE GOOD. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME T-R-E-A-T-S IF YOU DON'T *CHEW* ON THE COUCH.

YOU JUST FOCUS ON PROTECTING THE HOUSE FROM THE MAIL LADY, OKAY?

@$%#%.

I'M HEARING THE *SAME* ABOUT *PARAMOUNT.*

NO, NO, NO. *NO ONE* KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THESE STREAMERS *PROFITABLE.*

WAITER, ANOTHER ONE OF *THESE,* PLEASE.

DOUBLE, YEAH.

WE GOT A *WITNESS* SAID IT WAS A SILVER GUY USED THOSE HAND RAYS ON HIM, JUST *ZAPPED* HIM RIGHT HERE IN GRIFFITH.

SO WE FOLLOWED *PROTOCOL* FOR THAT SITUATION. AND WE CALLED THAT *JUSTICE LEAGUE* NUMBER THEY GAVE US FOR THIS TYPE OF THING.

BUT *THEY* JUST GAVE US *YOUR* INFORMATION.

THEY SAID YOU WERE *JENNY SPARKS?*

BE HONEST, I NEVER EVEN *HEARD* OF YOU.

YOU A *SUPERHERO* TOO?

@$%#% PIGEONS.

RATS WITH @$#%@ WINGS. BRING NOTHING BUT PLAGUE.

MA'AM, *UH*, I'M NOT TELLING *YOU* HOW TO DO YOUR JOB, BUT *I* GOT MINE.

AND WE HAVEN'T HAD THE *TECH* IN YET.

YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO *CLOSE* TO THE BODY. YOU COULD *DISTURB* COURT EVIDENCE.

MA'AM, *PLEASE!*

THIS IS A CRIME SCENE! YOU CAN'T JUST--

I'M NOT A *SUPERHERO.*

BZZZ

I'M THE @$@$@$ WHO KEEPS THEM IN LINE.

I *KNOW* YOU TOLD ME NOT TO TEXT. I'M *SORRY*, I AM.

BUT IT WAS THE *@$%@EST* DAY. I HAD MY FIRST LECTURE, AND NO ONE *CARED*, YOU KNOW? THEY JUST SAT THERE. LIKE *ZOMBIES*.

EVERYTHING'S GOING *WRONG*--I WANTED TO MAKE SURE. WE'RE STILL ON FOR *TONIGHT*, RIGHT?

IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY, IT'S A LONG WAY TO GO...

IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY, TO THE SWEETEST GIRL I KNOW...

Happy HOUR

:COUGH: :COUGH:

SARA! DIDN'T I HAVE THAT *BOTTLE* IN HERE? THE, *UH*... THE *BOTTLE?*

IT WAS *EMPTY* THIS MORNING ON YOUR DESK. I THREW IT OUT. SORRY.

I CAN RUN AND GET YOU *SOMETHING ELSE!* WHAT ARE YOU *LOOKING* FOR?

NO, I TOLD DON I HAD A *MEETING* THING.

IT'S *FINE.*

LET'S GET A *DRINK. I* WANT TO GO OUT. IS *TAYLOR'S* OKAY AGAIN? IT'S... *QUIET.*

HAZARD REPORTED AHEAD.

REROUTING TO ALTERNATE ROUTE.

NO, NO, NO--NO @$@%# *REROUTING.*

I'M NOT GETTING STUCK UNDER A *BRIDGE* ON SOME @$@@ SIDE STREET AGAIN. JUST DRIVE THROUGH, FOR *@$%#'S* SAKE.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S *BETTER* THAN--

JESUS *CHRIST.*

DON'T *STOP.*

"NO-GO"

NOT IF YOU DON'T *WANT* TO.

WHEN YOU BESIEGE A CITY FOR A *LONG* TIME...

...WHILE MAKING *WAR* AGAINST IT TO *TAKE* IT...

...YOU SHALL *NOT* DESTROY ITS TREES BY WIELDING AN AXE AGAINST THEM.

SCREECCHHHH

IF YOU CAN *EAT* OF THEM, DO *NOT* CUT THEM DOWN TO USE IN THE SIEGE.

FOR THE *TREE* OF THE *FIELD* IS MAN'S *FOOD.*

HADN'T HEARD *THAT* BEFORE.

YOU MAKE IT UP?

NO, THAT WAS *GOD.*

I'M SOMEONE ELSE.

FOR NOW.

YOU KNOW, I MET *GOD* ONCE.

HE WAS A REAL *@$%$.*

SO I *KILLED* HIM.

YOU HAVE A *DIRTY,* BLASPHEMOUS MOUTH.

IT'S *NOT* VERY ATTRACTIVE.

EH, AS OUR KINDLY *VICAR* USED TO SAY AS HE TRIED TO GET IN MY BROTHER'S *UNDIES:* YOU ARE WHAT *HE* MADE YOU.

KILLED THAT *@#$%* TOO, COME TO *THINK* OF IT.

YOU GOT A LIGHT?

THOSE THINGS CAN *KILL* YOU.

YEAH, WELL.

WAY *I* FIGURE IT...

...SOMETHING'S GOT TO.

NO, NO, *DOCTOR,* NO NEED TO EXPLAIN.

MY MOLLY HAD SOMETHING *SIMILAR,* YOU'LL RECALL. I SAW HOW IT WENT. I UNDERSTAND ALL THE *OPTIONS,* BELIEVE ME, YES.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME *KNOW.* IT'S *VERY* MUCH APPRECIATED.

I LOVE *EVERYTHING* YOU'RE SAYING. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE IF WE *DON'T* AIM FOR THE STARS?

AND FRANKLY, DEE, *I* CAN GET YOU THERE. I'M A *ROCKET* SHIP. YOU GET IN AND YOU *RIDE.*

YOU WANT *EVERYTHING?* LET'S *DO* THAT. *ALL* OF IT.

SIT DOWN. WHERE WAS THIS MURDER COMMITTED?

SAN FRANCISCO, LAST NIGHT.

WHO WAS MURDERED?

I WAS.

YOUR *HONOR,* WE'RE READY TO GET *STARTED.* EVERYTHING'S LOOKING *GREAT.*

OF COURSE. I'M COMING *NOW.*

YOU AND I HAVE BEEN REPORTING FROM LOCKER ROOMS FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS. WE HAVE HEARD EVERY EXCUSE IN THE BOOK.

STUFF PLAYERS SAY FOR THE **CAMERAS** AND WHAT THEY SAY TO **EACH OTHER.**

HAVE YOU **EVER** HEARD ANYONE THROW THEIR COACH UNDER THE BUS THE WAY **MICHAELS** DID LAST NIGHT?

Happy Hour

I SAW WHAT YOU *DID.* TOOK YOUR ENERGY SIGNATURE OFF THAT *POOR MAN,* FOLLOWED IT HERE.

YOU'VE BEEN *NAUGHTY,* AND WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU JUST *AMBLING* ABOUT ANYMORE.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO *BACK,* NATHAN.

I DON'T *LIKE* IT THERE. I DON'T *BELONG* THERE.

I SHOULD BE IN THE *SKY.*

YOU THINK I GIVE A *@$%#%* WHAT *YOU* LIKE?

THE POWERS THAT BE HAVE GRANTED *ME* THE GREAT PLEASURE OF KEEPING *YOU PEOPLE* FROM MAKING *@$@$* OUT OF YOURSELVES.

AND I CAN'T RIGHTLY SAY I'M DOING *MY* JOB IF YOU'RE OUT HERE *MELTING THE POPULACE,* CAN I?

THIS IS *STUPID.* YOU? DO YOU KNOW WHAT *I* AM?

THEY SHOULD HAVE SENT *SUPERMAN.*

SIGH

I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THE SAME THING I TOLD *ADOLF* WHEN HE GAVE ME HIS WHOLE *SOLILOQUY* ON WHO WAS DESTINED TO *INHERIT* THE EARTH.

@#$% SUPERMAN.

KABOOM

YOU...YOU HURT ME. THAT'S NOT *NICE.*

YOU *SHOULDN'T* HURT ME.

I *KNOW,* HON. I DO.

AND I *WISH* I COULD SAY I WAS *SORRY* FOR IT.

BUT I'M *JENNY SPARKS* AND HURTING LITTLE *@$%@$* LIKE YOU IS SORT OF *MY* THING.

SNAP

WELL, THAT AND *LIGHTNING.*

AAAAAAAH!

MY *GODFATHER* USED TO SAY, "THE BIG %@#% UP THERE DOESN'T PLAY DICE WITH THE UNIVERSE."

I SEE THAT *ALL* THE TIME TIME NOW, STITCHED INTO OLD LADIES' *BLOODY* PILLOWS.

I MEAN, THEY *CLEAN* IT UP SOME, LIKE THEY DO WITH *MOST* OF THEIR HISTORY.

NNNN.

LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THAT'S *PROFOUND.*

THAT WHAT *HE* WAS SAYING WAS GOD *CARES* ABOUT US. HE DOESN'T JUST *RANDOMLY* DECIDE WHO LIVES OR WHO *DIES,* WHO'S GOOD OR BAD.

GOD'S GOT A @%@$% *PLAN,* YOU KNOW.

WHAT THEY'RE *FORGETTING* IS THAT *UNCLE AL* WAS BEING VERY *SPECIFIC* THERE.

THAT WAS HIM SAYING QUANTUM THEORY DOESN'T *WORK.* PHYSICS ISN'T ABOUT *PROBABILITIES* THAT ONE ION MIGHT GO HERE *OR* THERE.

INSTEAD, THERE'S A UNIFIED *THEORY* THAT EXPLAINS *EXACTLY* HOW EVERYTHING MOVES TOGETHER, LIKE A @%$@$% CLOCK.

PROBLEM WAS, TURNS OUT HE WAS *DEAD* WRONG.

SPENT THE LAST *FIFTY* YEARS OF HIS LIFE SEARCHING FOR AN ANSWER THAT *WASN'T* THERE.

WENT OUT *KNOWING* HE HAD FAILED, THAT *THE LORD* WAS IN VEGAS ASKING A COCKTAIL WAITRESS TO BLOW INTO HIS *FIST* FOR @%@$% LUCK.

YOU *HEROES* ALL THINK *YOU'RE* THE CHOSEN ONE 'CAUSE YOUR *MUM* GOT KILLED AND YOU GOT IRRADIATED AND NOW YOU *FLY.*

BUT ALL THAT @$%# IS JUST BLOODY *CHANCE,* ISN'T IT?

COULD'VE HAPPENED TO THE *BLOKE* NEXT TO YOU, HAD *ONE* ATOM GONE ANOTHER WAY.

NO, YOU'RE JUST LIKE *EVERYONE* ELSE.

WAITING TO *DIE,* KNOWING YOU @%@% IT ALL UP.

SNAP

NO... NO...

GUH!

NO!

I *RECOGNIZE* YOU. YOU USED TO BE SOMEBODY. *LONG* TIME AGO.

WITH THOSE *OTHERS*... MIDNIGHTER AND... AND...IN YOUR *SHIP*... ALL OF *THEM*... ALL OF YOU.

NNNN, YOU @$@%.

BUT WHERE ARE *THEY* NOW?

WHY ARE *YOU* ALONE?

@%@$... YOU...

WHY ISN'T THERE *ANYONE* WHO CAN SAVE YOU?

SNAP

I'M SORRY, MS. SPARKS.

BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE ME BACK.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY.

YOU SEE THAT, *JENNY?* IT'S THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE WORLD.

AND MUMMY AND DADDY ARE GOING TO TAKE IT *ALL* THE WAY ACROSS THE *OCEAN.*

WILL YOU *MISS* US?

ARBEIT MACHT FREI

MS. SPARKS, I'LL BE *STRAIGHT* WITH YOU--I DON'T THINK THIS IS FOR A *LADY'S* EYES.

YOU GOT *RANK* ON ME, I'M NOT SAYING NO, BUT YOU *SURE* YOU WANT TO GO IN?

THIS *STUFF* HERE IS...THERE'S *NOTHING* EVER BEEN LIKE IT.

THIS IS AN *LGM-30* MINUTEMAN MISSILE, CARRYING A NUCLEAR WARHEAD--ONE OF ABOUT A *THOUSAND* WE GOT AIMED AT THE REDS.

THAT REPRESENTS A *THIRD* OF OUR OVERALL PLAN, WHICH, OF COURSE, INCLUDES SUBMARINES AND AIRBORNE.

WHATEVER'S COMING, GOING TO BE A *HELL* OF A WAR.

JENNY, THIS IS THE *DOCTOR.* I'M ABOUT TO CLOSE THE BATTLE ZONE.

WATCH YOUR BUTTS, EVERYONE--WOULDN'T WANT TO CUT THEM OFF.

JENNY SPARKS! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE *HERE!*

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?

Happy New Year 2024

YEAH, YEAH, WHY *DON'T* WE MEET UP TONIGHT? I CAN DO LATE.

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT? LIKE, *TEN?* YEAH, WE'LL DO A *LATE* DINNER, THEN GET SOME *DRINKS.*

LOOKING *FORWARD* TO IT. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I *LOVE* WHAT YOU DO.

NOT *TOO* BUSY. WE GET MORE CUSTOMERS IN *AFTER* ELEVEN. THAT'S THE RUSH.

I'M HERE SOMETIMES UNTIL *THREE* IN THE MORNING.

THOUGH I DON'T LIKE TO BE *SO* LATE. GOT SOMEONE *WAITING* ON ME AT HOME.

Happy HOUR

SARA, CUT MY *DINNER* PLANS WITH GREG FROM THE STUDIO. I GOT *JULIAN* NOW.

I KNOW, I KNOW, JUST A *GENERAL,* NOT LOOKING TO START *FIRES.*

BUT IF HE LIKES WHAT HE *HEARS,* WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY, *NO?*

DING

TAYLOR'S Bar

DON'T GO IN.

JUST DON'T. GO *HOME.* SEE THE TWINS.

BE *BETTER.*

TAYLOR'S Bar

I LIVE *ALONE.* I HATE IT. I HAD A BUNCH OF *SIBLINGS* GROWING UP. IT WAS SO MUCH NOISE.

YOU'RE *LUCKY* TO HAVE SOMEONE TO GO TO.

EVERYONE I KNOW IS *OUT.*

:COUGH: :COUGH:

BEEN A *BUSY* DAY AROUND HERE.

BODIES FALLING *ALL* OVER THE CITY.

THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO *HELP* WITH THAT.

WE ARE.

OH GOOD. NOW I FEEL A WHOLE *BUNCH* BETTER.

=SIGH=

THIS THE *GIRL?*

NOT A *GIRL.*

SHE'S *124* YEARS OLD.

REALLY?

WELL, *HELL,* SHE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD FOR HER AGE, THEN.

BESIDES BEING *DEAD* AND ALL.

I WAS IN THE *VIETNAM* WAR AND I HAD A *WIFE* AND A KID AND WHEN I CAME HOME THEY SAID I WAS A *CRIMINAL* BUT I HAD NOT EVER BEEN A CRIMINAL.

JUST A *SOLDIER.*

BUT NO ONE *BELIEVED* ME SO THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO *KILL* ME AND I SAID THEY SHOULDN'T AND THEY OFFERED A WAY WHERE THEY *WOULDN'T.*

INSTEAD THEY DID AN *EXPERIMENT* ON ME WHERE THEY PUT SOME *STUFF* ON ME THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO *PROTECT* ME.

THEN THEY DROPPED AN *ATOM BOMB* ON ME.

OPEN

TAYLOR'S Bar

AND THAT *PROJECTED* ME INTO THE *FUTURE* AND I WAS COVERED IN THIS STUFF THEY COVERED ME IN AND I HAD *POWERS.*

NO ONE CARED ABOUT THE *CRIME* SO I CHECKED ON MY WIFE AND KIDS AND THEY DIDN'T WANT *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH ME.

THEN I WAS A *SUPERHERO* AND I JOINED--

I'M *THIRSTY.*

I CAN CONTINUE MY STORY *LATER* BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE A VERY HAPPY ENDING I'LL TELL YOU THAT MUCH SO MAYBE I SHOULD JUST *STOP.*

AND GET *A DRINK.*

OH, *HEY!* WELCOME TO TAYLOR'S.

SIT *ANYWHERE* YOU LIKE.

ALL RIGHT.
SNIPERS REPORTING NO SIGN OF HIM NEAR THE WINDOWS.
WE ARE STILL GO. REPEAT, STILL GO.
TAYLOR'S Bar
I'VE GOT IT.
HEADING BACK.
TAKE YOUR TIME, OFFICER. SLOW AND STEADY. ONE FOOT, THEN ANOTHER.
WINDOWS ALL CLEAR. NO SIGN OF HIM. YOU'RE OKAY. EVERYTHING LOOKING GREAT.
ALMOST THERE, A FEW MORE STEPS, ALL GOOD.
WE GOT EYES ON EVERYTHING BEHIND YOU. NOTHING THERE.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET A MEDAL FOR THIS ONE, SON.
WELL DONE.
YOU GOT BALLS FOR MILES. RELAX.
THANK YOU, SIR.
COMMISSIONER, WE'VE RETRIEVED THE FIRST DEMANDS FROM HIM.
IT'S WRITTEN ON A NAPKIN HERE. YES, SIR, RIGHT AWAY, LET ME READ IT TO YOU.
HE SAYS HOSTAGES GOOD. EVERYONE WILL BE SAFE AS LONG AS HE GETS THREE THINGS.
ONE, HE, UH, WANTS TO BE GOD. TWO, HE WANTS HIS FAMILY RETURNED TO HIM FROM THE PAST.
THREE, HE WANTS A HAM SANDWICH-- RYE, LETTUCE, NO TOMATO, MAYO, AND MUSTARD.
The h
I would
famil
SIR? DO WE HAVE A RESPONSE, SIR?
...
SIR?
BZZZ
KABOOM
YES, CAPTAIN.

TELL HIM HE DOESN'T EVEN GET THE @#$@$ SANDWICH.

POLIL

WHAT THE--

MA'AM, I GOT *FIVE* SCARED HOSTAGES AND A *MADMAN* TO DEAL WITH!

THIS IS NOT A *PLACE* FOR YOU TO BE!

OH NO, YOU SOUND *STRESSED,* OFFICER.

WHY DON'T YOU GO *HOME* TO THE WIFEY AND KIDS?

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. *I'M* IN CHARGE HERE NOW.

POLIL

IS *THAT* SO?!

AND WHO THE *HELL,* MAY I ASK, ARE *YOU?!*

DIDN'T ANYONE *TELL* YOU?

I'M JENNY SPARKS, THE *SPIRIT OF THE 20TH CENTURY.*

AND LIKE THAT *FUN* HUNDRED YEARS, SEEMS LIKE I'M NOT *QUITE* DONE WITH YOU *@#$%@S.*

YOU GOT A *LIGHT?*

TO BE CONTINUED.

Jenny Sparks #2
variant cover art
by Ben Oliver

I CAN HEAR YOU.

THE REST OF THE WORLD HEARS YOU.

AND THE PEOPLE WHO KNOCKED THESE BUILDINGS DOWN WILL HEAR ALL OF US SOON.

"*WESTMINSTER ABBEY* IS, OF COURSE, HOME TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACES OF SOME OF ENGLAND'S FOREMOST LEADERS, SCIENTISTS, AND CULTURAL *ICONS.*

"FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH I TO SIR ISAAC NEWTON TO D.H. LAWRENCE.

"THEIR *LASTING* CONTRIBUTIONS TO KING, QUEEN, AND COUNTRY FOREVER *ENSHRINED* WITHIN THESE *SACRED* HALLS.

73

AND HERE IN THE PRIZED NORTH AISLE OF THIS LOVELY NAVE, WE DISCOVER TWO OF OUR MOST EMINENT AND ACCOMPLISHED...

...IF PERHAPS OCCASIONALLY CONTROVERSIAL GUESTS.

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN
BORN 12 FEBRUARY 1809
DIED 19 APRIL 1882

JENNIFER MARY SPARKS
BORN 1 JANUARY 1900
DIED 31 DECEMBER 1999

CHARLES DARWIN.

AND HIS GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER...

...JENNY SPARKS.

@$%##!

@%#%@#%, @$#%#, @#%#%@!

@$#%#!

@$%#% @%% @%#@$% @%%.

@#%@%!

...@$%%#.

@$% @%#% #%@%#, @$%#, BLOODY @#$#.

SNAP

@$#%.

OI!

BUM A CIG OFF YOU?

YEAH, YEAH, *HERE.*

I CAN'T BELIEVE *THIS* IS WHAT THEY @#%$#$ *BURIED* ME IN.

LIKE I'M A @#%@ *FAIRY PRINCESS.* @$%#% THESE MISOGYNISTIC *@%@$%.*

JESUS.

RATHER BE FLUSHED INTO THE *THAMES* IN THE CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION OF ALL THE WASTED @$#@$% IN THIS NOBLE *@$%@@$* CITY.

LET ME HAVE SOME OF THAT *FIRE,* EH?

DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE *THAT* HERE, NO. BLOODY HELL. WHO'S *SAFE?*

THANK YOU VERY *MUCH,* KIND SIR.

YOU...YOU THINK IT'S LIKE IN *NEW YORK,* THAT?

IT'S THE TERRORISTS WHO DONE IT?

WHAT...

WHAT THE @$#% HAPPENED IN *NEW YORK?*

YOUR NAME IS TAYLOR. AND THE BAR'S NAME IS TAYLOR'S.

DO YOU, THEN, OWN THE BAR?

THERE'RE SOME OTHER INVESTORS.

HUH, I SEE. OTHER INVESTORS.

I'M GOING TO WILDLY GUESS THAT MEANS YOU USED TO OWN THE BAR. YOU NO LONGER OWN THE BAR.

YOU ONLY TEND THE BAR.

POOR, POOR TAYLOR. WHATEVER HAPPENED?

YOU LOST YOUR DREAMS? WHERE DID THEY GO?

WHY I GOT TO MAKE IT IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAT?

WHAT'S THE POINT? I COULD GET YOU A GLASS OF WATER.

I DESIRE ANOTHER ONE, TAYLOR.

THE BEST ONE. THE MOST INTRICATE, DELICATE, ESTEEMED DRINK YOU'VE EVER TRIED.

THE ONE YOU CONCOCT FOR ONLY YOURSELF AND YOUR DREAMS.

YEAH...YEAH, OKAY.

I MEAN, YES, SIR.

RIGHT AWAY. SIR.

I TALKED TO *BATMAN.*

WE'RE BRINGING IN THE *LEAGUE.* GOING TO DO THIS FAST AND *RIGHT.*

I KNOW I'M NOT *FALLING* FROM THE SKY OR *NOTHING.*

BUT DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D USE THOSE SPECIAL *MAGIC* EYES OF YOURS TO HELP THIS *PARTICULAR* LADY IN DISTRESS?

FFFFFFTTTT

JESUS @%#@$!

CIGARETTES *KILL* YOU.

YOU THINK I'M *DAFT?!*

WHY THE *BLOODY HELL* DO YOU THINK I SMOKE THE #%%#% THINGS?!

HE'S TALKING TO THE *BARTENDER.*

ORDERING A *DRINK.*

I *FOUGHT* HIM, YOU KNOW. HE'S NOT WHAT HE ONCE *WAS.*

YOU *FOOLS* RUSH IN...

...HE'S GOING TO *SLAUGHTER* ALL THE HOSTAGES. LIKE @$$% *PIGS.*

SOMETIMES *PERSPECTIVE* HELPS. IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I LIKE TO *FLY.*

WE'RE *THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.* HE'S *CAPTAIN ATOM.*

IT'LL BE *TOUGH,* THEN IT'LL BE *FINE.*

AND HE'S GOING TO SLAUGHTER *YOU* *@%@$#* TOO.

LIKE LITTLE, *PATHETIC* @$@$% PIGS.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR *OPINION* ON THIS, AND IT'S *EARNED.*

BUT *YOU* KNOW AS WELL AS *I* DO, WE'RE NOT GOING IN NOW BECAUSE WE THINK IT'S THE *BEST* OPTION.

IT'S ONLY WHAT *HAS* TO BE DONE.

OINK OINK OINK.

WALLY IS ON ANOTHER EARTH. HE SHOULD BE BACK BY TOMORROW MORNING.

WE'LL NEED HIS SPEED TO... MINIMIZE THE CASUALTIES.

SO WE'RE GOING TO HOLD UNTIL THEN. I'LL LET YOU KNOW MORE AS WE GET CLOSER.

IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE KEEP HIM CALM. MAYBE GIVE HIM SOME HOPE.

MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS SAFE. AS BEST YOU CAN.

CLARK, YOU @%@% GORGEOUS WANKER.

THIS IS A MISTAKE.

WELL, I MEAN, WOULDN'T EXACTLY BE OUR FIRST.

WOULD IT, JENNY?

@%#@$.

YOU DON'T RETURN ONE COLLEGE BOY'S CALLS AFTER HAVING A SNOG WHILE HE'S ON THE REBOUND FROM A @$@$% MERMAID...

...AND IT HAUNTS YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR @$%# LIFE.

:COUGH:
:COUGH:

WE'RE ALL, LIKE, *DEAD*, RIGHT? WE CAN AGREE ON *THAT*, I HOPE.

HE'S SUCH A *BIG* MAN, WANTS TO KILL US...HE SHOULD JUST DO IT. GET IT *OVER* WITH.

STOP. HOW DOES THAT *HELP?*

WHO'S TRYING TO *HELP?* I JUST WANT SOME @$%@% HONESTY.

AND I REALLY WANT A *DRINK.*

HE'S A *SUPERHERO.* I SAW HIM ON THE NEWS WITH *GREEN LANTERN.*

THEY DON'T *KILL* PEOPLE. THEY HAVE THIS, LIKE...LIKE, A *RULE.*

WE JUST NEED TO *HOLD* IT TOGETHER HERE, AND IT'S GOING TO BE *OKAY.*

NOTHING IS THAT EASY.

I'M GOING TO GET A *DRINK.*

:COUGH:
:COUGH:

YOU'RE THE *PSYCHIATRIST.*

HE'S STILL A SUPERHERO, *ISN'T* HE? YOU DON'T *STOP* BEING A SUPERHERO BECAUSE YOU...YOU GOT *PROBLEMS* OR WHATEVER.

IT'S STILL *IN* YOU. LIKE, IN THE *DEEP* PARTS.

COUGH WELL, IT ENTIRELY DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU *MEAN* WHEN YOU SAY *SUPERHERO.*

I SUPPOSE.

I HAVE MANY PATIENTS *COUGH* WHO IDEALIZE THESE *PEOPLE* AS A WAY TO COPE WITH THE FACT THAT...

COUGH WELL, THAT THEY'RE *NOT* THEM. THEY'RE *NOT* SUPER.

I WOULDN'T *PRESUME* THAT ABOUT YOU--I DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW YOU.

BUT *COUGH* SOMETIMES *WORDS* JUST MEAN WHAT--

OH @$%@!

NO.

NO, PLEASE.

I WAS GOING TO GO DOWN TO *FORT MYERS* FOR THIS WHOLE WEEK.

EMILY'S GOT *FAMILY* DOWN THERE. HER MOTHER'S GOT ONE OF THOSE *SHARE CONDO* THINGS, Y'KNOW?

RIGHT ON THE @%@$ BEACH. YOU *WALK* TO THE WATER.

OH YEAH?

WE WERE PLANNING THE @$@% THING *ALL* SUMMER.

I GOT THE KIDS *INFLATABLE* @$%#@ AND EVERYTHING. LIKE A FLOATING BED WITH A *HOLE* WHERE YOU PUT YOUR BEER.

YOUR KIDS DRINK *BEER?* HOW *OLD* ARE THEY?

WHAT? WHAT THE @%@$ IS *WRONG* WITH YOU? YOU LISTENING? I'M *TELLING* YOU SOMETHING HERE.

I *HEARD* YOU, I HEARD YOU. JESUS *@$%#.* YOU'RE GOING TO THE BEACH WITH YOUR *ALCOHOLIC* @$%# TODDLERS, I GET IT.

CONTINUE, @#%% *PLEASE.*

I *DIDN'T* @%$$% GO, THAT'S WHAT I'M *SAYING.* WE WERE *GOING,* THEN WE WATCHED THE NEWS.

AND EVERYTHING ON THE @%#%$ NEWS IS *WHAT?* THERE ARE *SHARKS,* SHARKS EVERYWHERE NOW. THEY'RE *EATING* @#%@$% PEOPLE.

THAT'S ALL ANYONE WAS *TALKING* ABOUT, THE @$%#@% END OF THE WORLD 'CAUSE OF *SHARKS.*

YEAH, *@%$#* SHARKS.

AND EMILY'S LIKE, LOOK AT THESE *@$%#@ SHARKS.* WE CAN'T GO TO *FLORIDA.*

LET'S JUST *STAY PUT* AND BE *SAFE.*

HEY, RONNIE! YOU SEEING THAT? WHAT THE @$%# IS SHE DOING?

AH $@$#. WHAT THE @$%# DO *THESE* PEOPLE WANT? GET THE @%@$ OUT OF HERE.

HEY! HEY, *YOU!* THIS ISN'T @$%#@$ *CONEY ISLAND!* THIS IS A *RESTRICTED* AREA!

YOU DIDN'T SEE THE YELLOW @#%@€ *TAPE?!* WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?!

WHAT?

I SAID, *MISS...*

...WHAT THE @*%@$ ARE *YOU* DOING *HERE?*

I... I DON'T KNOW.

WELL, @$#@#$...

"...NOW WE GOT TO @$@$ DEAL WITH *YOU.*

"LIKE THERE ISN'T ENOUGH *ELSE* TO @$@% DO."

FLICK

WHAT *TIME* IS IT?

YOU DON'T GOT A *WATCH?*

I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING ON MY *WRIST.*

I GET *RASHES.*

WHAT ABOUT A *PHONE?*

BLOODY CHRIST, MAN. I'M NOT ASKING IF YOU WANT MY LIFE *@#%@%* STORY.

I'M ASKING FOR THE *@$%#* *TIME.*

IT'S ABOUT *FIVE.* THREE MORE MINUTES TO.

THAT LATE OR *EARLY?*

YOU THINK I *@$#%* KNOW?

WHAT DID YOU DO?

PARDON?

YOU'RE JUST...JUST BEING CRUEL!

DOCTOR... DON'T...

AMAZING.

ARE YOU JUDGING ME?

YOU...YOU =COUGH= HAD ABSOLUTELY NO RIGHT TO--

=COUGH= =COUGH= =COUGH= =COUGH=

YOU'RE *SICK.* I SEE IT. IN YOUR *CELLS.* HOW THEY *CONSUME* EACH OTHER.

≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠

LEAVE HIM *ALONE!* HE DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING!*

ERICA, STOP. WHAT ARE YOU *TRYING*...SIT DOWN.

NO, NO, NO, YOU'RE NOT *JUST* SICK, ARE YOU, *DOCTOR?*

WHY, YOU'RE *DYING.* FRITTERING AWAY THAT *MORTAL* COIL.

≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠ ≠COUGH≠

NOBODY *DID* ANYTHING...

DAMN YOU.

NOW, SIR...

...IS THAT *NICE?*

IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT *ME?*

YOUR *LORD* AND *SAVIOR?*

NEXT DRINK'S READY...

...WHEN *YOU* ARE.

SIR.

YOU GOT A PHONE?

YOU DON'T HAVE A PHONE?

@#%@ ALL YOU *PEOPLE*, I DON'T--

LOOK, I'LL GIVE YOU *FIVE HUNDRED* IF YOU LET ME MAKE A *QUICK* CALL.

LIGHTNING @$#% QUICK.

@%#@, ALL RIGHT.

HERE YOU *ARE*, LADY.

WELCOME TO THE *21ST CENTURY.*

AIN'T IT A *GAS.*

RING RING

Happy HOUR

HOW MANY IS *THIS* NOW?

DON'T KNOW.

RING RING

LOST COUNT, I GUESS.

Happy HOUR

YOU GOING TO GET THAT, *TAYLOR?*

MIGHT BE SO IMPORTANT.

:COUGH: :COUGH: :COUGH: :COUGH:

RING RING

SURE, *BOSS.*

MAYBE IT'S YOUR *HUSBAND.*

REALLY? *NOW?*

RING RING

RING RING

AAAH!

WHOOSH

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

OUR FEARFUL TRIP IS DONE.

YOU? WAIT.

AREN'T *YOU* DEAD?

DIDN'T YOU HAVE *FIVE* HOSTAGES?

I *DO!*

NO.

I *DID.*

SO I *DON'T.*

ANYMORE.

SORRY.

HE *KILLED* HIM! *SAM!*

FOR *NOTHING!*

I--

WOULD IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I'D KILLED HIM *FOR* SOMETHING?

I'LL REALLY TRY TO DO THAT NEXT TIME. *SORRY.*

...JESUS.

YOU GOT A *LIGHT*, CAP?

FOR *YOU*, DEAR?

OF COURSE.

Happy Hour

Bar

#$@%#.

TAYLOR, I WILL HAVE ANOTHER. PERHAPS AN *OLD FASHIONED.*

IN *HONOR* OF OUR *GUEST.*

HELL OF A WAY TO TREAT A *GUEST* THERE.

NOT *SURPRISING,* BUT STILL RATHER *HELLISH.*

I *TOLD* YOU PEOPLE WHAT I *WANTED.*

IF YOU WANT TO *GIVE* IT TO ME, I'LL BE *REALLY* NICE.

BUT *OTHERWISE...* YOU KNOW...

WHAT YOU WANT? THE *DEMANDS.*

I CAN'T MAKE YOU *GOD.*

WELL, *SOMEONE* HAS TO.

BECAUSE I *DESERVE* IT.

YEAH? AND WHY'S *THAT?*

DO YOU?

AND HERE *I* AM STILL WAITING FOR MY *LIGHT.*

THIS IS DR. *JAMIE BOWLES.*

HE HAS *CANCER* IN HIS COLON THAT HAS METASTASIZED TO HIS *LIVER* AND *SPINE.*

HE WILL BE *DEAD* IN A MATTER OF MONTHS.

=COUGH= =COUGH=

...PLEASE...

AND NOW...HE'S CURED.

AND HE'LL *LIVE* FOR QUITE A *GOOD* WHILE.

YOU WANTED A *LIGHT.*

HOW'S *THAT* WORK FOR YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, *CAP.*

SOMEHOW I'M STILL A *TAD...* UNSATISFIED.

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN! OUR FEARFUL TRIP IS DONE...

...THE SHIP HAS WEATHER'D EVERY RACK, THE PRIZE WE SOUGHT IS WON.

THE PORT IS NEAR, THE BELLS I HEAR, THE PEOPLE ALL EXULTING.

WHILE FOLLOW EYES THE STEADY KEEL, THE VESSEL GRIM AND DARING...

...BUT O HEART! HEART! HEART!

O THE BLEEDING DROPS OF RED...

...WHERE ON THE DECK MY CAPTAIN LIES.

I NEED A DRINK.

FALLEN COLD AND DEAD.

WHO THE @$@% ARE YOU?

THAT THERE IS *JENNY SPARKS,* MY FRIEND.

THE SPIRIT OF THE *20TH* CENTURY.

AND YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER *MADMAN,* THE NEXT IN A *NOISOME* LINE OF FOOLS.

YOU THINK THIS IS *SPECIAL?* YOU THINK *YOU'RE* SPECIAL?

I *THINK* I'M *GOD.*

AND I AM PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU TO *THINK* THAT *AS WELL.* FOR *EVERYONE* TO *THINK* IT.

OR TO *ACKNOWLEDGE* IT. THAT'S A MORE *PROPER* WAY TO PUT IT, I *THINK?*

I'M YOUR LAST CHANCE HERE, YOU @$%#@% GIT.

THE *BIG HITTERS* ARE COMING. TO PUT YOU DOWN *HARD.*

LET THESE PEOPLE *GO.* GO BACK TO YOUR *TREATMENT.* BE A *@%@$* MAN. TAKE AN *EASY* WAY OUT.

NO.

YOU *CAN'T* UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE--

PFT

I SAID...

...NO.

SIGH

WOMEN, ALWAYS *WOMEN*...

ANYWAY.

YOU WANTED SOMETHING TO *DRINK*, SAM?

YEAH, I JUST... YEAH.

TAYLOR, HOW ABOUT WE DO *TWO* OLD FASHIONEDS?

IS THAT *OKAY* FOR YOU, SAM?

I WAS... WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED?

IT WAS A *MIRACLE*. YOU WERE A *MIRACLE*, SAM.

DR. JAMIE IS A MIRACLE. *I'M* A MIRACLE.

JENNY SPARKS IS A MIRACLE.

AND OH BOY, WE'RE *JUST* GETTING *STARTED*.

OBVIOUSLY THERE'S GOING TO BE A **RESPONSE** TO THIS TERRORIST ATTACK.

WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS DEBATING NOW IS THE **EXTENT** OF THAT ACTION.

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE NATION AND IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS.

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE AT THIS POINT WHAT OPTIONS ARE **OFF** THE TABLE.

A FEW **MONTHS** AGO WE WERE DEBATING THE END OF HISTORY WITH THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN HEGEMONY.

AND NOW... WHO **KNOWS** WHAT'S COMING NEXT.

I GUESS THE ONLY THING THAT'S REALLY **CLEAR** HERE IS THAT THE END OF HISTORY IS NOT HERE, NO, **SIR.**

WE'RE STILL GOING **STRONG.** STRONG AS EVER.

THE GHOSTS OF THE PAST HAVE **RISEN** AGAIN...

...AND THEY'VE GOT **QUITE** THE AGENDA.

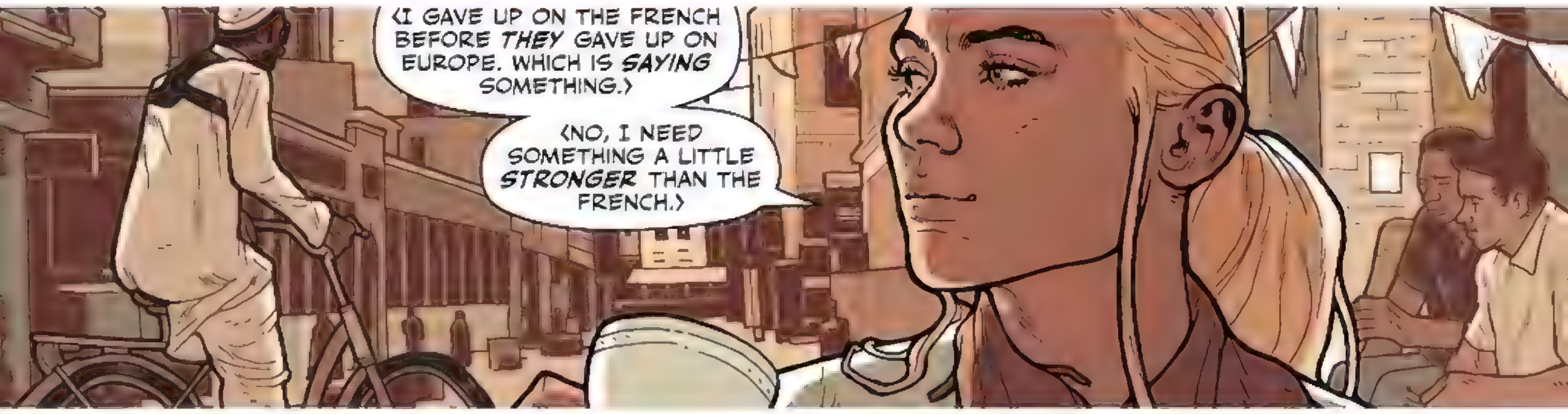
NO.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Jenny Sparks #3
variant cover art
by Christian Ward

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

*TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC.


‹I GAVE UP ON THE FRENCH BEFORE THEY GAVE UP ON EUROPE. WHICH IS SAYING SOMETHING.›
‹NO, I NEED SOMETHING A LITTLE STRONGER THAN THE FRENCH.›

SUPERMAN.

YOU SEE *YOUR MAN?*

THOUGHT THIS WAS ONLY GOING TO TAKE A MOST *LITERAL* SECOND.

TAYLOR

Bar

LOS ANGELES. NOW.

THERE'S SOME SORT OF *RADIATION* OVER THE BAR NOW.

X-RAY VISION ISN'T GETTING THROUGH.

DON'T POP YOUR CHIN DIMPLE, I'M SURE IT'S JUST *PEACHY.*

ANY MOMENT NOW, *FLASH* IS GOING TO DASH OUT OF THERE WITH *ALL* THEM HOSTAGES.

FREEING YOU AND YOUR *JUSTICE CLUB* TO HANDILY TAKE DOWN THE CAPTAIN.

ANY MOMENT NOW...

WHILE WE'RE WAITING...COULD USE A LIGHT.

CRASH

FLASH!

SO THAT'S A *NO?*

HOW ABOUT *YOU* LOT? ANY ONE OF YOU PARAGONS GOT A *LIGHT?*

AND FOR @%@$% SAKE, DON'T SAY IT'LL *KILL* ME.

I'M NOT TAKING LESSONS ON *AVOIDING DEATH* FROM A BUNCH OF @$%@$ ABOUT TO RUSH INTO THAT PARTICULAR PUB.

WELL, *DAMN.*

ERICA!

LET'S PLAY A *GAME!* IT'LL BE *REALLY* FUN!

YOU JUST TOSSED A *SUPERHERO* THROUGH THE CEILING THERE.

WELL, IT WAS A *FLASH,* AND NOT EVEN ONE OF THE FIRST *TWO.*

SO *"SUPER-HERO"* SEEMS A BIT *MUCH,* DON'T YOU THINK?

I MEAN, HE CERTAINLY DOES *RUN* FAST, SO HE HAS *THAT,* AT LEAST.

WHAT *KIND* OF A GAME?

DIDN'T I *TELL YOU?*

A *REALLY* FUN ONE.

THIS ISN'T A *GREAT* PLACE FOR US TO TALK. I'M SORRY.

CAN I *FLY* YOU SOMEWHERE ELSE? IT WON'T BE AN *ARDUOUS* JOURNEY, I ASSURE YOU.

BAGHDAD. 2004.

AMIR!

MS. SPARKS, IT WAS A PLEASURE TO HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN. ALWAYS GOOD TO CATCH UP WITH AN OLD... *FRIEND.*

BUT MEETING *HERE* IS NOT EXACTLY--

‹AMIR, YOU @$%! WHERE ARE MY @$@$ *CIGARETTES?!*›

‹YOU KNOW I CONTROL @$%#@$ *LIGHTNING,* YES?!›

MS. *SPARKS.*

I'M NOT CERTAIN YOU'RE *UNDERSTANDING* ME.

‹I AM HERE! RIGHT HERE!›

GOD @%#@$ BLESS.

WE NEED TO *LEAVE.*

YOU CAN SPY THEM, *CAN'T* YOU? THEM SOLDIERS *RUMBLING* UP THAT ROAD ABOUT TO DIE.

I *HEARD* YOU HAD MAGIC EYES.

YOU *KNOW.*

ABOUT THAT... WHAT'S THE NEW WORD FOR "*BOMB*" YOU PEOPLE HAVE...

I...E...D? THAT ONE *RIGHT* THERE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD--LOOKING LIKE A *SHOE.*

WHY DO YOU THINK I CHOSE TO MEET *HERE?*

THE @$@$% *AMBIENCE?*

FLASH?

I TOOK HIM TO *DR. MID-NITE* IN NEW YORK.

THE RADIATION BURNS ARE *EXTENSIVE.* HE *WAS* STILL BREATHING WHEN I LEFT.

WE WILL SEE WHEN *WE* ARE DONE IF THE *CAPTAIN* CAN SAY THE SAME.

ARE WE READY *NOW?* EARLY BIRD GETS THE *WORM.* AND I'M *STARVING.*

WALLY HAS FALLEN. ATOM *STILL* HAS THE HOSTAGES.

PERHAPS IT IS BETTER TO *WAIT* UNTIL WE KNOW MORE.

I LIKE STORMING BEACHES WITH THE BEST OF THEM. *SEMPER FI* AND ALL THAT.

BUT *DIANA'S* RIGHT. THE PLAN IS ALREADY OFF. PERHAPS IT'S BETTER TO *REGROUP.*

NO. HE *EXPECTS* RETREAT.

WE *PUSH* NOW, HE *FALLS.*

OR!

WE COULD SPEND OUR TIME *MORE* WISELY AND ACTUALLY *HELP* SOMEONE.

BY FINDING *JENNY* A MATCH! *GO JUSTICE LEAGUE!*

I AGREE WITH *BATMAN.*

OH, WELL, HE AGREES WITH *BATMAN...*

YES, *THIS* IS THE ONLY WAY.

WHAT *OTHER* WAY COULD THERE BE...

THEN LET IT BE *DONE.*

WITH JUSTICE AND *FOR* JUSTICE.

AND *AT* JUSTICE AND *OVER* JUSTICE AND *ON* JUSTICE, *BESIDE* JUSTICE...

IS THERE A PROBLEM, *MS. SPARKS?*

FLICK

YOU KNOW HOW *HARD* IT IS TO CREATE LIGHTNING *THAT* SMALL?

YOU COULDN'T JUST LEND A GIRL IN DISTRESS A HELPING #@@$% HAND?

IGNORE HER.

YOU'RE NOT *GODS!*

AND *HE* IS?

NO, BUT THE DIFFERENCE IS...

...DEEP DOWN, *HE* KNOWS IT.

AND YOU BLOODY GITS *DON'T.*

TAYLOR'S Bar

WHAT DO YOU THINK, *DOC?* YOU *ARE* THE EXPERT.

ANYONE GETTING OUT OF HERE *ALIVE?*

WHAT?

I GOT A *CLIENT,* HE DOES *ALL* THE DRUGS. WAS AT A HOSPITAL WITH HIM WHEN THEY DECLARED HIM DEAD.

WHO'S THE *CLIENT?*

WOULD *I* KNOW HIM? HE'S, LIKE, A *MOVIE STAR?*

I THINK HE *WANTS* TO DIE, BUT *I* DON'T WANT TO DIE, Y'KNOW?

THEN, COUPLE MONTHS LATER, I'M ON A SET WITH HIM, AND HE'S SOBER AND *GORGEOUS* AND *EVERYONE* IS MAKING MONEY.

COUPLE MONTHS *LATER,* I'M *BACK* AT THE HOSPITAL. DUDE'S DEAD AGAIN, ALIVE AGAIN. WHAT DO YOU *CALL* THAT?

SO HOW'S *THAT* FAIR? THEY TEACH YOU *THAT* IN MEDICAL SCHOOL?

NO.

I WENT TO *LAW SCHOOL.*

THEY DON'T TEACH YOU *@$%$* IN LAW SCHOOL.

I BET I'D *KNOW* HIM. I KNOW *A LOT* ABOUT MOVIES.

GIVE ME YOUR *FINGER.*

I NEED TO MAKE YOU *BLEED.*

A PRICK FROM A PRICK.

ERICA...

WE CAN'T GET A PIN?

SIR.

CAPTAIN.

SORRY, CAPTAIN.

DON'T WORRY, MY DARLING.

THIS'LL DO JUST FINE.

WHO SAID YOU COULD GO FIRST?

OH, NO, ARE YOU SCARED, CAPTAIN?

I GUESS WE CAN START OVER.

THIS IS STUPID. OR CRAZY. I DON'T KNOW.

I LIKE YOU.

IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO BEST YOU.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

KRRO

RRRSCHH!!

CAPTAIN ATOM!

I AM *HAWKGIRL* OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE!*

AND YOUR *FOLLY* IS NOW AT AN *END!*

SHHH.

AAAAAH!!

I'M MAKING A *MOVE.*

IT'S *IMPORTANT.*

"HOW FAR AWAY *ARE* THEY, YOU THINK?

"OR *YOU* PROBABLY KNOW, DON'T YOU? *MAGIC EYES* AND ALL."

THOSE BRAVE SOLDIERS OUT ON PATROL.

"SHOULDN'T YOU BE DOING YOUR *THING* BY NOW?"

RACING BULLETS AND TRAINS...

...HOPPING OVER BUILDINGS IN SINGULAR BOUNDS...

"...UP UP AND AWAY."

THIS IS A *POLITICAL* SITUATION.

IT'S NOT FOR *ME* TO INTERFERE.

HUH. IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THE KIDS' *PARENTS?*

WHEN YOU DELIVER THE *PRETTY* FLAGS?

I *CAN'T* DECIDE A WAR FOR THEM.

THERE HAVE TO BE *LIMITS* TO WHAT WE DO.

IS THAT *NICE?*

NO.

B'RRK

"BUT IT'S *NECESSARY.*"

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

WHAT? I'M *PLAYING.*

BAMM

WHAT IF YOU *LOSE?*

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT *HE'S* GOING TO DO.

KCHWIFF

BLAM BLAM

HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THAT *MOVIE?*

YOU CAN'T *LOSE* AT TIC-TAC-TOE.

EVERYTHING TO YOU IS A *MOVIE.*

MOVIES HAVE TO MAKE *SENSE. THIS* DOESN'T.

CRACK

I KEEP *TELLING* YOU, DANI...

NNN...

HANDS OFF THE *MARTIAN!* NOW!

...I DON'T THINK YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH MOVIES.

PLEASE, CAPTAIN, THERE IS A *BETTER WAY.*

I THOUGHT YOU WERE *MORE*, MANHUNTER.

NO!

CRACK

BUT I BET YOU THOUGHT *I* WAS *LESS.*

GNN!

IT'S KIND OF *SAD...*

BY THE *BOLTS OF JOVE,* RELEASE HIM!

HOW WE NEVER REALLY GOT TO *KNOW* ONE ANOTHER.

AAAAAH!

CRACKK

YOU MONSTER!

JAMIE! DID YOU HEAR THAT?!

WHAT SHE CALLED ME?

NOOOOOO!

AAAAAH!

TELL HER WHAT I DID.

WHAT HER MONSTER DID FOR YOU.

UH, YEAH.

HE, UH, SAVED MY LIFE.

YOU GET WHAT JAMIE SAID?! I SAVED HIS LIFE!

WHAT KIND OF MONSTER WOULD DO THAT?!

"I DON'T CARRY A WATCH. GET A *RASH* ON MY WRIST. *ALLERGIES.*

"NONETHELESS, TIME IS *PASSING,* ISN'T IT?"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT *THIS* IS ABOUT. WHY YOU WANTED TO MEET *ME.*

BUT I'M *LEAVING.*

HERE THEY COME.

I COULD STOP *EVERY* WAR.

THEN WHAT WOULD I BE?

RIGHTEOUS?

ENOUGH!

WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?!*

DEAR *LORD*, ATOM, HAVE YOU NO *DECENCY?!*

POW

WHUD

CRACK

THUDD

LOOK, UP IN THE SKY...

OH

DAMN YOU!

"IT WASN'T NECESSARY."

THERE.

IT'S *OVER.*

CRUSHING MY *POOR CIG,* I MEAN.

FOLKS, WE'LL GET YOU *OUT* AND GET YOU MEDICAL CARE.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH THIS *ORDEAL.*

BECAUSE, HONESTLY...

...I CAN *ALWAYS* FETCH ME ANOTHER.

PLEASE DON'T *WORRY.*

I'M *HERE* TO...

OH WAIT, WHERE ARE *YOU* HEADED?

...HELP...

AH, I SEE.

UP UP AND AWAY IT IS.

NNNN...

WELL, LOOK AT *YOU*.

AREN'T YOU *SO* SUPERMAN.

NATHANIEL.

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO WOULD LIKE TO *SPEAK* TO YOU.

DADDY?

P-PEGGY?

WHAT... WHAT IS *THIS*...

DADDY, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

I'M...

I'M *ASCENDING,* SWEETIE. BECOMING *DIVINE.*

YOU...

NO, DADDY, YOU--YOU'RE *SICK.*

YOU HAVE TO *STOP.* YOU HAVE TO LET ME TAKE *CARE* OF YOU.

BUT...HONEY...HOW DO YOU TAKE CARE OF *A GOD?*

ISN'T IT BETTER TO LET *THE LORD* TAKE CARE OF *YOU?*

YOU CAN'T--

ERICA? ARE YOU FINISHED?

BZZOUUU

GGGHH--

IS IT MY TURN YET?

WHAT *WAS* THIS, A TEST?

YES.

BUT NOT OF *YOU.*

IT ALWAYS STARTS AGAIN.

AND I *CAN'T* STOP IT.

UNLESS YOU *DO.*

I...

THERE'S AN *ASTEROID* HEADED TOWARD *DENVER.* I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT.

I HOPE YOU HAVE *PLEASANT* DAY.

A *PLEASURE,* SIR.

WE *MUST* DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME.

TO BE CONTINUED.

NYSE

BTM	1,382.93	12.72	1,382.93	12.72
SPM	873.62	204.53	873.62	204.53
WWN	-27.37	162.38	-27.37	-162.38
GLN	283.84	846.03	283.84	846.03
FLH	96.37	82.36	96.37	82.36
MMH	-83.29	45.92	-83.29	45.92
AQM	2,876.52	1,437.82	2,876.52	1,437.82
HKW	126.36	6,392.05	126.36	6,392.05
BBL	-27.37	162.38	-27.37	162.38
BSG	11,290.66	456.42	11,290.66	456.42
SHZ	15.23	12,560.99	15.23	12,560.99

BTM
SPM
WWN -27.37
GLN 283.84
FLH 96.37
MMH -83.29
AQM 2,876.52
HKW 126.36
BBL -27.37
BSG 11,290.66
SHZ 15.23

456.42
12,560.99

Jenny Sparks #4
variant cover art
by Simone Di Meo

WE GOT HIM!

NEW YORK. 2011.

...AS A COUNTRY, WE WILL NEVER TOLERATE OUR SECURITY BEING **THREATENED**, NOR STAND IDLY BY WHEN OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED.

WE WILL BE **RELENTLESS** IN DEFENSE OF OUR CITIZENS AND OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

WE WILL BE TRUE TO THE **VALUES** THAT MAKE US WHO WE ARE.

AND ON NIGHTS LIKE **THIS** ONE, WE CAN SAY TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES TO **AL QAEDA'S TERROR**--

JUSTICE HAS BEEN--

--DONE.

BLEEAAKK

DIANE! WHAT THE @$%# IS WRONG WITH THE TV?!

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WE PAY FOR THIS @$#@?!

MAYBE IT'S FINALLY TIME TO CUT THAT CORD.

EVERYONE OUGHT TO BE FREE, AT LEAST ONCE IN A WHILE.

WHAT--

WHO THE @$@% ARE YOU?!

I'M JENNY SPARKS, THE SPIRIT OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

AND YOU'RE RONALD WEITHER, CEO OF ATLANTIC BANK AND TRUST.

ABT, AS IT'S KNOWN IN THE TICKERS, I BELIEVE.

NATE! I GOT A CRAZY @$@$ #@% IN HERE!

WHAT THE #@$#$@ AM I PAYING YOU FOR, MR. @#%@# BODYGUARD?!

TRY TO HOLD STILL THERE, RONALD.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU TOO MUCH RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING HERE.

SUVTH

THE CAUSE OF SECURING OUR COUNTRY IS NOT COMPLETE.

BUT TONIGHT, WE ARE ONCE AGAIN REMINDED THAT AMERICA CAN DO WHATEVER WE SET OUR MIND TO.

THAT IS THE STORY OF OUR HISTORY.

WHETHER IT'S THE PURSUIT OF PROSPERITY FOR OUR PEOPLE OR THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS.

OUR COMMITMENT TO STAND UP FOR OUR VALUES ABROAD.

AND OUR SACRIFICES TO MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE.

LET US REMEMBER THAT WE DO THESE THINGS NOT JUST BECAUSE OF WEALTH OR POWER.

BUT BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE--

ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE.

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

NOW.

KNOCK KNOCK

WHO'S THAT?

WHO ELSE? WHO CARES?

YOU WANT I SHOULD LET THEM IN, BOSS?

NOT A TERRIBLE IDEA...

YOU COULD USE THE DISTRACTION AS AN EXCUSE AS TO WHY YOU'RE TAKING SO DAMN LONG TO PLAY, CAPTAIN, SIR.

MM.

PLEASE, PLEASE, ALLOW ME.

NO NEED FOR ANYONE TO GET UP.

THERE.

HOW EASY IS THAT?

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

I'M HERE.

OH, SWEETIE, LIKE KANE IN THE OPERA HOUSE, YOU HAVE NO IDEA THAT YOU JUST LOST IT ALL.

DO YOU?

OI! MORNING, ALL!

I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE SOME COFFEE BEFORE WE ALL END UP DEAD.

YOU.

GO AWAY.

PBLLH!

BLOODY @#%@ CHRIST!

WHAT THE FLYING @$%@ IS *THAT* ABOUT?!

I THINK HE ONLY WANTS YOU TO ***LEAVE,*** MA'AM.

Y'KNOW, AND THAT'S, I THINK, THE ***WISEST*** ACTION FOR YOU TO TAKE.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU ***HEARD***-- HE KILLED ***SUPERMAN.***

I'M NOT AN IGNORANT @$#% HERE-- I KNOW WHAT HE @@$% DID! WHY DO YOU THINK I'M IN THIS SAD @@$% PLACE, *EH?*

HEY, ***CAPTAIN!*** YOU TOOK THESE PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU ***WANTED*** SOMETHING, RIGHT?! WELL, WE ***HEAR*** YOU!

I'VE COME TO ***HELP*** WITH MEETING YOUR DEMANDS, AND YOU ***PISS*** ALL OVER ME LIKE A SCARED @$#%@$ ***PUPPY?!***

OH...

...FINALLY!

GEORGIA. 2011.

BZZZZZZZZZ

ZZZARKKK

AAAAAH!

AAAAAH!

RONALD, DON'T GO *KOOKY*, JUST LISTEN. YOU'RE IN A *PANIC*.

BUT I STILL NEED YOU TO *DO* SOMETHING FOR ME, ALL *RIGHT?*

PLEASE...

SLAP

...SHUT THE @$@$ UP.

WHAT... WHAT *IS* IT?

I DON'T *UNDERSTAND* IT.

JIMINY @$#% CHRISTMAS AND HIS TWELVE *BUGGERING* APOSTLES! FORGOT MY LIGHTER *AGAIN!*

I'M THE *DAFTEST* SUPERHERO THIS SIDE OF *GUY GARDNER.* AND HE GOT *PROPERLY* BRAINED BY A SCHOOL BUS, DIDN'T HE?

ARE YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO *HIT* ME AGAIN?

...WELL.

NOT IF YOU HAVE A *LIGHT* ON YOU, YOU NAUGHTY BOY, YOU.

EH?

WHAT IS *HAPPENING?!*

PLEASE, WHATEVER YOU WANT, NEED, WHATEVER. *WHATEVER* IT IS! I'LL *GIVE* IT TO YOU!

JUST...JUST... JUST *STOP.* THIS. *STOP* IT.

BLEEDING HELL, *RONALD.* I BROUGHT YOU SOMEPLACE *CHUMMY* SO YOU WOULDN'T GO ALL *BARMY.*

LOOK AROUND YOU, *BOYO.* DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THE MODERN-ANCIENT-MIDDLE-PERIOD *INTERIOR?*

IT'S *YOUR HOME.*

...WHAT?

MY HOME, WHAT?

WELL, YOU *PAID* FOR IT, DIDN'T YOU?

OR YOU *WILL*, SOON ENOUGH.

24

HAPPY New YEAR!!

FORECLOSURE

FOR

PLEASE, PLEASE, COME HERE, MY *SWEET DEAR.*

I'M THINKING WE GOT OFF HERE ON THE WHOLE WRONG-*FOOT* VIBE.

CAN I GET YOU A *DRINK?*

ONLY IF I CAN GET YOU SOME *TROUSERS.*

HA HA HA

SO, YOU HAVE *MY* THREE TERMS...

...FOR THE RELEASE, I MEAN, OF THESE *NOBLE* CITIZENS.

OBVIOUSLY.

YOU WANT TO BE *GOD.*

YOU WANT YOUR *FAMILY* RETURNED FROM THE PAST.

YOU WANT A *HAM* SANDWICH-- RYE, LETTUCE, NO TOMATO, MAYO, AND MUSTARD.

Happy HOUR

WELL.

THERE'S ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION ON THE *SANDWICH.*

WOO @$%#@ HOO.

AND ALSO ON THE *KIDS*-AND-*WIFE* PART TOO. I COULD MOVE ON THAT.

IF I'M BEING *HONEST.*

ONCE YOU'RE *GOD,* ACKNOWLEDGED AND WORSHIPPED, DOES IT *MATTER?*

AS *WINNIE* SAID TO *UNCLE JOE* RIGHT BEFORE THE BOMB FELL...

...IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE *THIS* SOBER.

MMM.

SEE? *SAM* GETS IT.

I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR *SPILLING* YOUR COFFEE.

I CAN *REMEDY* THAT.

I HAVE A KNACK FOR *REMEDYING.*

I HAD *CIGS* IN MY JEANS.

DID YOU?

YOU'RE KIND OF A *DANGEROUS* MAN, CAPTAIN.

YES.

BUT I'M GOING TO BE A *GENTLE* GOD.

I SWEAR, I SWEAR.

WATCHING *YOU* THESE PAST WEEKS ON THE TV IN FRONT OF YOUR *CONGRESS* AND ALL...

...I ALWAYS THOUGHT, WELL, THAT THERE IS PURE, REFINED, AND CONCENTRATED *@$@$%.*

A MAN WITH *NO* REDEEMING QUALITIES WHATSOEVER.

BUT THIS *LIGHTER* YOU GOT, *EH*, THAT'S PRETTY @%#$% *SWANKY,* RONALD.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ENOUGH TO *REDEEM* YOU FOR YOUR SINS AND ALL...

CLICK

...BUT @%#, EVERYONE STARTS *SOMEWHERE,* DON'T THEY?

ARE YOU...

YOU'RE *KILLING* ME?

CHRIST, *RONALD,* WHAT IS IT YOU THINK I AM, THEN?!

EVEN WITH WHAT YOU DONE TO THE *WHOLE* COUNTRY, EVEN THE *WORLD,* IT WOULDN'T BE *MY* RIGHT TO *KILL* YOU, WOULD IT?

NAH, I GOT SOMEONE *ELSE* COMING OVER TO ACT UPON THAT PARTICULAR *PRIVILEGE.*

ALL RIGHT. TO START THIS *TALK*, MAKING YOU *GOD* AND ALL...

FIRST, I GOT A *REQUEST.* I NEED YOU TO RELEASE TWO OF THESE *HOSTAGES.*

WHAT? NO. WHY?

IT'S A *GESTURE,* YOU GIT. GOOD @%@@$ *FAITH.*

SHOWS YOU'RE NOT SOME *NUTTY* OUT FOR HIS OWN *KICKS.*

WAIT, NO, YOU KNOW *ME.*

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ABOUT IN ANY WAY.

ARE YOU HAVING A *LAUGH?*

YOU *TICKLING* ME WITH YOUR ABSURD @$@$ WORDS THERE?

I'M A *SUPERHERO.*

I'VE BEEN IN THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE.* OF AMERICA *AND* OF EUROPE.

IT'S NOT *THAT* FUNNY, BUT YOU KEEP GOING.

GOOD FOR *YOU!* LOVE TO SEE THAT CONFIDENCE IN AN *AMATEUR!*

I AM NOT A *JOKE.*

WHO SAID YOU WERE A JOKE?

WELL, WHO SAID YOU WERE A *GOOD* JOKE, I MEAN?

TAYLOR, YOU STILL GOT THAT YOU-KNOW-WHAT FROM YOU-KNOW-WHO?

DID YOU *TOSS* IT? I ASKED YOU *NOT* TO, REMEMBER?

TWO HOSTAGES. YOU'RE DESIRING TO BE THE *ALMIGHTY.*

I'M JUST SEEKING SOME COMMON *MERCY.*

I GOT IT RIGHT *HERE,* BOSS.

I DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING* WITH IT.

I'M NOT *ASKING* FOR THE SKY.

THOUGH I KNOW YOU *COULD* GIVE IT.

YOU NEED TO KNOW *ME!* LOOK AT *ME!* LOOK AT WHAT I *HAVE* HERE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT *ELSE* THERE IS TO *KNOW!*

"AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ABT, YOU MADE *FIVE MILLION PLUS* A YEAR.

"GOOD ON YOU, *RONALD!* LIVE THAT *AMERICAN DREAM!*

"BUT! *ALAS!* THAT WASN'T *QUITE* ENOUGH, WAS IT? NO, YOU WANTED TO FLY *PRIVATE.*

"FOR THAT, YOU NEEDED *MORE* INCOME.

ABT Stock

"AND YOUR INCOME WAS TIED TO YOUR *STOCK.* SO YOU NEEDED THAT STOCK TO *SOAR* ON HIGH.

"I MEAN, IF IT *DIDN'T*, ONE DAY, YOU'D...WHY, YOU'D HAVE TO FLY *JUST* FIRST CLASS!

"SO YOU *LOBBIED* HARD AND BRIBED EVEN HARDER AND GOT SOME *LEGISLATION* PASSED.

"A FEW MUDDY, SMALL-FRY *REGULATIONS* WAVED AWAY. WHO GIVES A @$%% ABOUT THEM?

"BUT THEN ALL OF A *HAPPY* SUDDEN, YOU, RONALD, *YOU* COULD GRANT LOANS TO WHOEVER, WHEREVER, WHENEVER, WHATEVER, *@$%#EVER.*

"GIVE THEM OUT LIKE THE EASTER BUNNY, *HOPPING* FROM ONE HOUSE TO THE NEXT.

ABT Stock

"AND THAT MEANS A *BOATLOAD* OF PEOPLE OWE YOU A *BOATLOAD* OF MONEY, AND *THAT* MAKES YOU LOOK MIGHTY RICH!

"OH, AND DID THAT STOCK *FLY!*

"MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS, YOU WERE MAKING *REAL CASH* THEN.

"WHO NEEDS TO *SHARE* A FLIGHT ATTENDANT, FOR @$@% SAKE?"

"BUT THEN, *POOR RONALD,* ALL THOSE LOANS YOU GAVE OUT TO PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T PAY THEM BACK...WELL, THEY DIDN'T GET *PAID BACK.*

"AND ALL THE COIN YOU HAD *IN THEORY* TURNED OUT TO BE *ZERO* COIN IN PRACTICE.

ABT Stock

"SO YOUR PRECIOUS, LOVING, KNOCKOUT *STOCK,* IT WENT A-TANKING.

"AND #@%, IT TOOK THE WHOLE BLOODY *WORLD MARKET* WITH IT.

"*BUMMER,* THAT.

"AN ENTIRE *GENERATION*--OR TWO--IS NOW GOING TO BE LOCKED OUT OF BUYING A HOUSE FOR A DECENT *PRICE,* THEIR OWN AMERICAN DREAM NO MORE.

"NOT TO MENTION THE *STAGGERING* AMOUNT OF WEALTH IN ALL THE NATIONS ON ALL THE CONTINENTS JUST *ERASED* BY YOUR ACTIONS.

"AND YOU, POOR, POOR *RONALD,* WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO *YOU?*

"WHAT *CONSEQUENCES* WOULD YOU FACE FOR YOUR ROLE IN DESTROYING *BILLIONS* OF LIVES TO GET A *BETTER* SEAT ON A PLANE?

ABT Stock

"WELL, THE GOVERNMENT YOU LOBBIED AND BRIBED BAILED YOU OUT, SO YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT *ANY* OF THAT, DID YOU?

"YOU PARKED AT THE *TOP* OF THE CHART. NO TSA SECURITY LINES FOR *YOU,* PAL!

"HECK, RONALD, *ADMIT* IT.

"YOU EVEN MADE A TIDY *PROFIT* ON THE WHOLE THING, DIDN'T YOU?

"YOU *CHEEKY* DEVIL, YOU."

I'M REALLY *IMPRESSED* BY YOU, CAPTAIN. I THINK YOU'RE A *MAN'S* MAN.

JUST GIVE ME *TWO* HOSTAGES, AND I'LL COME BACK AND WE'LL HASH OUT THE *GOD SITUATION.*

YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* ME.

YOU THINK I'M *SICK.* I'M *NOT* SICK.

YOU BEING *SICK* OR NOT HAS GOT LITTLE TO DO WITH ME BELIEVING YOU'RE THE GREAT INVISIBLE *DADDY* IN THE SKY.

THAT *YOU* CAN TRUST TO YOUR HEART'S *@$#@$%* CONTENT.

SHOW ME.

PRAY TO ME.

GET DOWN ON YOUR *KNEES* AND BEG MY *GRACE.*

TWO *@$@$%* HOSTAGES.

I MIGHT *DESTROY* YOU.

CAN I HAVE ANOTHER *CIGARETTE?*

I THREW MY *LAST* ONE AWAY.

I DON'T KNOW *WHY.*

SCATTER YOUR *ATOMS* TO THE GUSTS FROM THE *AIR CONDITIONER.*

LIKE A *DANDELION* PLUCKED FROM THE GRASS BY A NAIVE GIRL...

...WHO *BLOWS* ON IT FOR WISHES.

I WAS *BORN* ON JANUARY 1, 1900.

I *DIED* DECEMBER 31, 1999.

IN BETWEEN, I SAW GENOCIDES, *PLAGUES,* WARS...

...A WORLD STRUGGLING TO DEFINE ITSELF AS *CIVILIZED* ONLY TO UNLEASH THE GREATEST *SAVAGERY* ANYONE HAS EVER @#$@ CONTEMPLATED.

THEY DISCOVERED THE SECRETS OF *CREATION*...

...AND THEY USED THEM TO *HACK DOWN* THIS FELLOW AND THAT.

EVERY MOMENT OF *NOBILITY* WAS HAUNTED BY THE *ARROGANCE* OF SUPREMACY.

TO KNOW *ANYONE* WAS JUST KNOWING HOW TO *BURY* THEM.

I TRIED, I @$%#@$ *LABORED* TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT, TO GET IT *BETTER.*

BUT I FELL INTO THE SAME IMPERIALIST @$@@$% *TRAP* AS ALL THE REST OF THEM.

EVEN AS I WAS LOWERED INTO MY *GRAVE* THINKING I'D DONE *GOOD.*

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE-- I *CAN'T.* NOTHING *YOU* OR ANYONE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

BECAUSE ALL THAT $@$# I THOUGHT WAS *DONE,* IT JUST KEPT *PLOWING* ON, DIDN'T IT?

YOU'RE GOD?

@%#% YOU.

PHHHH

I'M THE 20TH CENTURY.

AND I AIN'T GOING *NOWHERE.*

HI, CARLY, COME ON IN.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

I'M *FINE*, I GUESS. THANKS.

HOW ARE *YOU?*

THERE'S GOOD DAYS AND *BAD*. JUST TRYING TO *LEARN* TO TELL ONE FROM THE OTHER.

HE'S WAITING DOWN IN THE *LIVING ROOM*, TO THE RIGHT.

I *KNOW* WHERE IT IS.

YOU BRING THE *GUN?* IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU DIDN'T.

I'M HERE AND CAN DO IT IF YOU *WANT*. JUST POINT OR...

NO, NO, I GOT IT *HERE*.

IT'S REALLY *FINE*. THANK YOU.

WELL, LOOK AT YOU, *JENNY SPARKS.*

OKAY, OKAY. *ONE.* YOU CAN HAVE *ONE* OF THEM. BECAUSE I'M *NICE.*

YEAH. ALL RIGHT.

BUT *YOU* HAVE TO PICK WHICH.

DO I? THAT'S *KIND* OF YOU.

IS IT? I THINK MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT *GOD* DOES. LET *EVERYONE* MAKE THEIR *OWN* MISTAKES.

RONALD, CARLY.

CARLY, RONALD.

DON'T... PLEASE...

CARLY USED TO *LIVE* HERE, RON.

IN FACT, SHE--

I HAVE...A... A REALLY GOOD KID AND...

BLAM

HE DOESN'T HAVE TO KNOW WHO *I* AM.

IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF *THING.*

TAKE *ERICA.* PLEASE.

HE HAS THEM PLAYING THIS *STUPID* GAME.

AND THEY *TIE* EVERY TIME.

BUT WHAT IF THEY *DON'T* TIE?

SAM'S TOO *DRUNK* TO CARE.

AND JAMIE'S ALREADY *GOT* SOMETHING. CURED, THAT'S A *GIFT.*

TAYLOR...

IT'S *HIS* PLACE, AND THE CAPTAIN GOES DOWN WITH THE *SHIP* AND ALL THAT.

AND *ME.* I'VE GOT A HUSBAND AND KIDS. YOU KNOW.

AND I DID THIS. THIS IS *MY* FAULT. THAT I'M IN THIS... *HERE.*

BUT *ERICA,* SHE'S JUST TRYING TO HELP *ME.*

THAT'S *ALL* SHE DOES.

SHE DOESN'T DESERVE *THIS.* I DID THIS TO HER.

I *BROUGHT* HER HERE. WHY'D I DO THAT? I *SHOULDN'T* HAVE, I KNOW.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO *DIE.* OKAY.

BUT NOT *HER.* PLEASE.

THE DOCTOR.

NO!

HAHAHAHA.

YOUR TURN, CAPTAIN.

AND I'M PRETTY SURE YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT *WRONG.*

ALL RIGHT, C'MON, DOC.

WAIT, WAIT.

I SHOWED *YOU* I'M IN *GOOD FAITH* HERE.

AM I *ALONE* IN THAT?

IS IT *ALL* A GAME TO YOU?

I HEARD ON THE NEWS THEY CAUGHT *BIN LADEN.* THAT'S *SOMETHING,* HUH?

YEAH.

GOD BLESS *AMERICA.* GOD SAVE THE *QUEEN.* GOD DAMN THE *REST.*

NO.

NEVER.

MY HOLY LORD.

MY CAPTAIN.

I PRAY TO THEE.

FOR GRACE AND FORGIVENESS.

AND IF I CAN'T HAVE BOTH, ONE WILL DO.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Jenny Sparks #5 variant cover art
by Elizabeth Torque & Sabine Rich

SO IT HAS BEEN WHAT THEY CALL A HISTORIC EVENT.

BUT TO BE REALLY HISTORIC WE HAVE TO DO A GREAT JOB.

AND I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN.

WE WILL DO A GREAT JOB.

WE WILL DO A GREAT JOB.

Trump Triumph
Stunning W

GOTHAM CITY. 2016.

WHEN THEY WENT TO *SLEEP* LAST NIGHT, *UH*, WHEN THE *KIDS* WENT DOWN, *WE* WERE UP UNTIL *ARIZONA* AND... AND... *FLORIDA*.

#@$@$ *FLORIDA*.

BUT WHEN *SHE* WAS GOING...*SLEEPING*, MY DAUGHTER, SHE WAS..*EXCITED*, OKAY?

SHE THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE THE *FIRST*... Y'KNOW.

WOMAN WHATEVER.

AND SHE WAS *EXCITED* ABOUT THAT, 'CAUSE SHE THOUGHT WHAT, *UH*, WE *ALL* THOUGHT.

AND IN THE *MORNING*, WE HAD BREAKFAST GOING AND I WAS... *SITTING* THERE, OKAY?

SMILING.

AND *SHE* CAME DOWN, YOU KNOW.

AND WE WERE JUST... *NO*.

NO.

IT...Y'KNOW, IT WENT *THE OTHER WAY*.

AND *SHE*, *SHE* WAS...

"YOU TOLD ME HE WAS A MONSTER!" SHE, LIKE, WAS *CRYING* IT.

"MONSTERS DON'T *WIN*!"

AND WE HAD TO *EXPLAIN*.

I GUESS, Y'KNOW...

...SOMETIMES THEY *DO*.

STARLIGHT

YOU REMEMBER THE '90s?!

@%&#!

I @$%@$#@$ *LOVED* THE '90s.

TAP TAP TAP

YOU DIDN'T *WORRY* ABOUT THIS @$%#.

THINGS WEREN'T SO *IMPORTANT.* YOU JUST WENT ALONG.

AND IT *WAS* GETTING BETTER, OKAY? JUST...YOU THOUGHT WE WERE *SAVED.*

AND THAT *LITTLE GIRL*-- SHE'S *NEVER* GOING TO GET THAT.

MA'AM...

...YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A LIGHT.

CHEERS.

NAME'S *MALONE.*

NO IT ISN'T.

WELL, IT'S MORE OF A *NICKNAME,* I SUPPOSE.

UHM, BARKEEP...MAY I PLEASE HAVE A *DIET* POP? WHATEVER YOU HAVE ON TAP IS *SUPER.*

THANK YOU.

@@$%, *BATMAN.*

EVEN WHEN YOU TELL THE *TRUTH,* YOU LIE.

NOW.

POLICE

ALL I CAN SAY IS YOU'RE IN *FANTASTIC* SHAPE, DOCTOR.

YOU'VE GOT... WHATEVER CLICHÉ YOU *WANT*...BUT IT'S ALL COMING IN AT ABOUT WHAT IT'D BE FOR A MAN *HALF* YOUR AGE.

THANK YOU.

BUT, I MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A *HELL* OF AN EXPERIENCE.

HOW ARE *YOU* FEELING? WE CAN *STILL* GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL, GET SOME REST.

NO, OFFICER. PLEASE.

I'M ALL RIGHT.

NEVER *BETTER*, IN FACT.

YOU GOT A *SEC*, DOC?

FLICK

FOR THE WOMAN WHO *RESCUED* ME?

I SUPPOSE I *MUST.*

READ UP ON *YOU.* ALL THE FILES SAID YOU WERE A *NICE* CHAP.

A FIRST-RATE PSYCHOLOGIST, GOOD CITIZEN, GOOD FATHER, GOOD HUSBAND.

GOOD #@%$ *EVERYTHING.*

HUH, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT THERE?

THOUGHT IT WAS A *SMUDGE,* BUT IT'S JUST...I CAN SEE PRETTY WELL *WITHOUT* THEM.

ALSO SAID YOU HAD *CANCER.*

DID IT?

SUPPOSE THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH *FILES.*

THEY'RE *RARELY* UP TO DATE.

CRAKKK

THIS IS A MISTAKE.

ONE *MOMENT* HERE, BOYS...

IT'S NOT.

GRNNGNLN.

WELL, I'M GLAD *THAT'S* SETTLED.

JESUS @$%#.

SORRY. =ECKH=

JUST HAD *ONE* TOO MANY. AFTER HAVING *TWELVE* TOO MANY.

WHAT CAN I SAY? BEEN ONE OF THOSE *DECADES.*

YOU'RE FEELING ALL RIGHT *NOW?*

WE *CAN* COME BACK SOME--

YOU @$@$#, I GOT A @#@$% *GUN!*

I WANT #@$%@ *WALLETS!* @$$% *FAST!*

OR *ELSE* YOU'RE GOING TO $@% *DIE!*

HOLY @$%!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA.

"HE WASN'T DRAFTED. HE *VOLUNTEERED.* WITH *THREE* KIDS AT HOME AND A WIFE.

"BY ALL ACCOUNTS HE WAS A *DEDICATED* SOLDIER. *UNHEARD*-OF NUMBER OF KILLS.

"HE SERVED HIS TIME. HE WENT HOME. HE *REENLISTED.*

"1968. ON HIS *THIRD* TOUR, HE WAS ARRESTED FOR SOME THINGS HE'D DONE IN THE *JUNGLE.*

"*BRUTAL* @#$$@$ THINGS.

"HE *CLAIMED* HE WAS FRAMED. MAYBE HE *WAS.*

"ALL *I* CAN SAY IS, AT A TIME WHEN A LOT OF MEN HAD A *LOT* OF FREEDOM TO DO A LOT OF @@#$-UP @#$%, THEY SENTENCED *HIM* TO DEATH.

"ON THE EVE OF HIS *HANGING,* HE WAS OFFERED A *DEAL.*

"IN EXCHANGE FOR A *PARDON,* HE COULD PARTICIPATE IN AN *EXPERIMENT.*

"THE U.S. HAD RECOVERED AN *ALIEN SHIP* AND WAS INTERESTED IN WHETHER IT COULD WITHSTAND A *NUCLEAR ATTACK.*

"MORE *SPECIFICALLY,* THEY WONDERED IF A MAN *INSIDE* THE SHIP COULD SURVIVE THE ONSLAUGHT OF IMPACT, RADIATION, AND HEAT.

"AND WHAT *CLEVERER* WAY TO FIND OUT...

"...THAN WITH A *GLEEFUL* VOLUNTEER?"

"HE SAT.

"THEY AIMED.

"THEY FIRED.

"HE WAITED.

"FOR THE WORLD TO END.

"AND THEN.

"BOOM."

THAT DOESN'T MAKE *ANY* SENSE AT ALL.

DON'T IT?

THAT'S NOT HOW YOU WOULD TEST... *ANYTHING.*

NO.

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO *WALK?*

WE *COULD* FIND SOMEWHERE TO SIT.

NO, I *ENJOY* THE EXERCISE.

IT'S NICE TO FEEL A BREATH WITHOUT IT *CATCHING* IN MY THROAT.

MAN OF *YOUR* AGE, WITH *YOUR* HISTORY, WANTING TO KEEP STROLLING ALONG?

DOESN'T MAKE MUCH *SENSE,* DOES IT?

HM.

IS THIS HOW IT ALWAYS IS WITH YOU AND ALL THESE...WITH *YOUR* TYPES?

NONE OF IT ADDS UP, REALLY.

JUST A BUNCH OF *MIRACLES* WALKING AROUND.

YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A *MIRACLE* AND A *TRAGEDY,* DOC?

TIMING.

FLICK

OPEN

YOU *SURE* WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE HIM IN TO THE POLICE STATION?

LEAVING HIM IN AN *ALLEY* WITH YOUR, *UHM*, WITH THE ROPES... THE *BAT-ROPES* ON HIM...

IT *STILL* SEEMS... IT WOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A *SECOND* FOR ME TO, *UHM*...

WHAT'S WITH THE *MUSTACHE?*

BATMAN DOESN'T GO TO *BARS* ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

MATCHES DOES.

MATCHES?

OH, YEAH, THAT'S HIS *COVER* NAME WHEN HE'S USING *THIS* PERSONA.

IT'S BECAUSE HE *ALWAYS* HAS, *UHM, WITH* HIM, HE HAS, *UHM*...

...MATCHES.

Diner
JESUS CHRIST.
WHAT THE @$#$ IS *WRONG* WITH YOU PEOPLE?

"SURPRISE @$%#€%# SURPRISE.

"THE SHIP ACTUALLY WITHSTOOD THE BLAST."

NN.

"FOR A *FEW* SECONDS, THAT IS."

AAH! AAAH!

"THEN THE METAL THAT RAN THROUGH THE BLOODY THING *MELTED* IN THE HEAT OF THE EXPLOSION."

AAAAAAAAAAH!!!

"I WASN'T THERE, SO I CAN'T SPEAK TO IT WITH *AUTHORITY.*

"BUT I DON'T IMAGINE IT WAS THE MOST *COMFORTABLE* WAY TO LEAVE THIS LIFE."

GNNNN.

"THEY SEARCHED ALL OVER THAT ALIEN WRECKAGE FOR THE *POOR £@$@#'S* BODY.

"BUT *NOTHING* GOT FOUND.

"*FEW* YEARS PASSED.

"WIFEY MARRIED A FELLOW NAMED *WADE,* WHO THE LITTLE TYKES JUST CALLED 'DADDY.'

"QUITE A *FEW* MORE YEARS PASSED.

"THEY WERE A *HAPPY* FAMILY LIVING A HAPPY LIFE.

"*HE* WASN'T EVEN A MEMORY--HE WAS A COMMEMORATIVE FLAG *CLUTTERING UP* THE ATTIC.

"THEN *ONE NIGHT,* WITH THE KIDS OUT OF THE HOUSE TAKING CARE OF THEIR *OWN* KIDS...

"...WIFEY WENT FOR A *MIDNIGHT SNACK...*

"...AND JUMPED A @#%@$ MILE WHEN SHE SAW HIM.

"ACCORDING TO *HER,* HIS FIRST WORDS WERE JUST...

"...'IT STOPPED HURTING.'"

"SHE DIDN'T *TELL* HIM SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM, BUT HE DIDN'T *ASK* EITHER.

"INSTEAD, HE WENT BACK TO THE *ARMY.*

"THEY TESTED HIM, SAW HIS *POWER,* AND TOLD HIM HE WAS A *SUPERHERO.*

"SO HE STARTED TO *FLY* AROUND AND ALL THAT AND FOUGHT *BAD GUYS* FOR HIS COUNTRY.

"IN THE COURSE OF HIS WORK, HE TEAMED UP WITH *OTHERS* OF HIS ILK.

"SAVING DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY AFTER @#$@% DAY.

"EVENTUALLY, HE *RETIRED* FROM THE MILITARY AND JOINED THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE...*

"...WHERE HE SEEN AS A *STOLID* AND DEPENDABLE MEMBER.

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, NO ONE GAVE HIM *MUCH* THOUGHT.

"MOST SIMPLY PUT, HE WAS *GENERIC.*"

THEN, THREE MONTHS BACK, HE CHECKS HIMSELF INTO A *MENTAL HOSPITAL.*

JUST TELLS THE DOCTORS HE'S NOT *FEELING* SO SPUNKY AND NEEDS A TIME-OUT.

SUPERMAN AND BATMAN WENT OUT TO *MEET* HIM. THEY TELL ME HE SEEMED *DISTANT* OR *DISCONNECTED,* BUT IN CONTROL.

HE WAS READING *THE BIBLE,* THEY SAY.

AND THEN LATER HE BREAKS OUT AND...HERE WE ARE.

WHY DID THEY TELL *YOU?*

SUPERMAN AND BATMAN, I MEAN.

IT'S MY *JOB.*

I'M NOT *SURE* I UNDERSTAND.

WHAT'S YOUR JOB?

FORGET *THAT.*

IT'S NOT *IMPORTANT,* DOC.

THEN WHAT *IS* IMPORTANT?

JUST A *QUESTION.* THAT'S *MY* JOB. AS A PSYCHIATRIST.

MUST BE *TOUGH* ON YOU.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE WHEN *EVERYONE* IS GIVING YOU LESS.

YOU DON'T HAVE A *LIGHT,* DO YOU?

WHY DO YOU *ASK?*

GET OUT ALL YOUR #$@ MONEY! YOU LOSER @$%$!

OR I'LL HAVE A @$%$ LOAD OF BULLETS IN YOUR #@$%# HEADS!

EXCUSE ME.

IS THIS HOW IT ALWAYS IS?

YOU'RE JUST @$€@# WAITING FOR THE FLIES TO COME?

I HAVE AN OFFER FOR YOU.

I BET YOU DO, MATCHES.

I DROPPED HIM OFF AT THE POLICE STATION.

I, UHM, ALSO GOT THAT FELLOW FROM THE ALLEY, SINCE I WAS ON THE WAY ANYWAY.

WELL, *YOU'RE* JUST IN TIME.

HE'S GOT AN *OFFER* FOR ME.

AH, YOU, *UH, ALREADY* TOLD HER.

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO--I MEAN NEVER MIND, *SOUNDS GOOD.*

WE'VE ENTERED AN *INTERESTING* TIME IN OUR HISTORY.

EVENTS HAVE BECOME MORE... *UNPREDICTABLE.*

CUT. CUT

OH, YOU HAVEN'T DONE THE *SPEECH* YET. I *GET* IT.

JUST *CATCHING* UP. GO ON. *PLEASE.*

WHAT THE @$%@$% IS THIS?

WHAT--

YOU, *UHM,* CAN'T *SMOKE* HERE, MS. SPARKS.

IT'S THE *RULES.* I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET IN *TROUBLE.*

IN SUCH TIMES THERE ARE *DANGERS* WE OURSELVES ARE PERHAPS NOT *BEST* SUITED TO HANDLE.

AND PERHAPS A *ROLE* NOW NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR *THESE* CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT SEEMS TO US YOU HAVE A *PARTICULAR* SET OF POWERS AND EXPERIENCES THAT--

JESUS #@$@$.

SPIT IT OUT *ALREADY.*

I'M SO @#$% *SOBER* I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER WHAT THE @$@$ *DAY* THIS IS.

COULD *YOU* KILL US?

WHAT?

THE MAN OF STEEL AND *THE DARK KNIGHT.*

IF WE CAME AFTER *YOU,* COULD YOU *KILL* US?

YES.

GREAT!

THERE WAS A *BLOKE* WHO USED TO SIT HERE.

FEEDING THESE PLAGUE-CARRYING *RATS.*

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE NOT *AFRAID* ANYMORE.

SNAP

THEY FORGOT WHAT *WE* ARE.

CRACK

AND SO IT FALLS UPON *ME* TO REMIND THEM.

"I'VE GOT A *MADMAN* IN THERE, DOC...

"...WITH POWERS *HE* CERTAINLY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

"AND *I* CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO TAKE A @#$% *GUESS* AT.

"FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN, IT GOES BEYOND *ANYTHING* HE EVER DEMONSTRATED DURING WHAT EVERYONE ASSUMES WERE HIS MORE *SANE* DAYS.

"AS IF *WHATEVER* BROKE *HIM* BROKE WHATEVER *RESTRAINTS* HE HAD ON HIMSELF.

"HE EXECUTED THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE,* THOSE MASTERS OF CRISISES.

"EVEN *MORE* IMPRESSIVE, HE KILLED *ME.*

"FOR A *BIT.*

"I WISH HE *WAS* GOD.

"I KNOW HOW TO @$%#% OVER *GOD* WELL ENOUGH.

"BUT HERE...THERE'S *NOTHING* I CAN DO TO BEST THIS *@$@#$%.*"

WHEN HE FIGURES OUT WE *CAN'T* GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS...

...THAT *NO ONE* CAN...

...I CAN'T TELL YOU *WHAT'LL* HAPPEN.

BUT I DOUBT IT'LL BE *WHISKEY* AND *HONEY* FOR THOSE PEOPLE IN *THAT* BAR.

AND US *OUTSIDE* IT...

...HE COULD *SLAUGHTER* US ALL.

WITH A *SNAP* OF HIS *BLOODY* FINGERS.

ALL OF WHICH AMOUNTS TO, DOC...

...I REALLY NEED *YOU* TO HELP ME *KILL HIM.*

AND I SUPPOSE KILL *YOU* TOO.

ALL RIGHT, FINE.

I'M IN.

YOU CAN TAKE SOME *TIME.*

MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND *WHAT* WE'RE ASKING.

YOU WANT ME TO *POLICE* THE SUPERHEROES, INCLUDING *YOU.*

SNAP

A ONE-WOMAN *SUPER-INTERNAL AFFAIRS.*

WHAT'S TO *UNDERSTAND?*

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK *WHY* WE TRUST *YOU?*

NO.

I'M *NOT.*

IT'S NOT *UNTETHERED* POWER.

YOU WATCH US, *WE* WATCH YOU, SPARKS.

HOW *NICE.*

HONESTLY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE *RIGHT* AWAY.

IF YOU HAVE *ANY* QUESTIONS...

THE REASON YOU *TRUST* ME...

...IS BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY PERSON ON THIS *@$@#%$-UP PLANET* WHO DOESN'T NEED ANSWERS FROM *YOU TWO.*

FLICK

NO.

ALL I *NEED* RIGHT NOW, BOYS...

...IS AN *ADDRESS.*

TAP

YOU'VE SEEN HIM UP CLOSE. YOU KNOW HIS MIND. YOU'RE AN EXPERT. YOU TELL ME.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET ALL OF THIS TO GO AWAY?

TO RETURN TO WHAT WAS BEFORE, YOU MEAN?

BECAUSE IT WAS BETTER BEFORE. BEFORE HE CAME AND CHANGED EVERYTHING.

CHANGED ME. TOOK MY CANCER AWAY.

NOTHING EVER GOES BACK TO WHAT IT WAS.

THIS DYING...

IT SCARES ME.

SCARES ME TOO.

AND I'VE BEEN THROUGH IT ONCE OR TWICE.

WELL, IT'S GOOD TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH SOMEONE, ISN'T IT?

AND WE ALL SHARE THAT.

YES.

WE DO.

I ENJOY THAT ABOUT BEING ALIVE.

EVEN WHEN I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE SO WONDERFUL IN ALL OF IT...

...THERE'S AT LEAST THAT.

I NEED YOUR HELP, DOCTOR.

I WISH I DIDN'T, BUT I NEVER GOT A @$@@$ WISH GRANTED IN MY LIFE.

"MS. SPARKS...

"I WATCHED MY WIFE DIE--MY *MOLLY.* IT WAS...UNPLEASANT.

"AND WHEN SHE WAS GONE, THERE *I* STILL WAS. WHICH WAS SIMILARLY UNPLEASANT.

WE WERE TOGETHER *56* YEARS. AND FOR 56 YEARS I WAS NEVER ALONE.

THEN, IN A BLINK, THE WORLD WAS JUST EVERYONE ELSE AND *ME.*

"THIS MAN, THIS CAPTAIN, TOOK MY *SICKNESS.*

"HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A GREAT *KINDNESS,* A STEP ON HIS WAY TO DIVINITY.

HE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS *KEEPING* ME FROM MY WIFE.

THIS...THIS... *GOD* COULDN'T DISTINGUISH BETWEEN *KINDNESS* AND *CRUELTY.*

"YOU ARE *QUITE* RIGHT, YOUNG LADY.

"*NOTHING* EVER GOES BACK TO WHAT IT WAS.

AND SO IT IS OUR JOB TO FACE *FORWARD* AND WALK THE PATH AHEAD.

AND, IF REQUIRED, TO FIGHT THE *DEVILS* THAT DARE TO STAND IN OUR WAY.

2016.

WHAT?

DADDY?

I HEARD FROM YOUR FATHER YOU GOT *UPSET.*

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT WITH ALL THE *MADNESS* COMING...

...THERE'S A @$@$ OUT THERE WHO STILL HAS *YOUR* BACK.

WHO ARE *YOU?*

I'M *JENNY SPARKS.*

AND I'VE SEEN *WORSE.*

TO BE CONTINUED.

Jenny Sparks #6
variant cover art by Leirix

IT'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR.

ONE DAY, IT'S LIKE A MIRACLE, IT WILL DISAPPEAR.

NEW YORK CITY. 2020.

NUMBERS CONTINUE CLIMBING WITH THE NEW VARIANT NOW OFFICIALLY THE DOMINANT STRAIN OF THE VIRUS...

...WITH OVER TEN THOUSAND DEAD REPORTED LAST WEEK.

AND THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO GO UP THIS WEEK.

@$%$#%.

VARIOUS FORECASTERS AND IMMUNOLOGISTS HAVE OFFERED NUMEROUS SCENARIOS AS TO WHEN WE MIGHT SEE A BREAK IN THESE TRENDS.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THE SUMMER WILL WARM IT OFF, BURN IT AWAY...

...THOSE WHO SPECULATE THAT A VACCINE WILL COME IN A YEAR OR TWO WITH A POSSIBILITY OF NORMALCY TO FOLLOW...

...AND THOSE WHO SAY THIS IS NORMALCY.

SAFE TO ADD THE ONLY THING WE KNOW AT THIS POINT...

...IS THERE'S NO QUICK WAY OUT.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITH IT.

NOW.

OI, IT'S *JENNY!* LET ME IN, YOU @$%#% HAIRY-CHINNED *PIGGIES!*

KNOCK KNOCK

TAYLOR'S Bar

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?

WHAT DO YOU *THINK?*

I'VE COME TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE YOU GOD, RESCUE THE @%@# HOSTAGES...

...AND THEN GET ON WITH ME @%#@ DAY.

ALL RIGHT, *COME* IN.

BUT NO *BLOODY* SANDWICH.

A GIRL CAN ONLY GO *SO* FAR.

JENNIFER SPARKS!

WHAT A *PLEASURE!*

CAPTAIN.

FLICK

NOW, NOW.

IS *THAT* ANY WAY TO ADDRESS YOUR *LORD AND SAVIOR?*

WOULDN'T KNOW. I SKIPPED *CHURCH* AS A CHILD.

MUM FOUND OUT, I GOT A RIGHT *SPANKING* FOR IT, AND THEN I *DID* IT AGAIN.

SOME THINGS CHANGE, *SOME* DON'T, *EH?*

I HAVE A *GIFT* FOR YOU!

OLD FASHIONED?

PLEASE.

IT'S *FIRE.*

WHOOSH

YOU'RE ALWAYS ASKING FOR *A LIGHT,* JENNIFER.

I WAS THINKING, WHAT SHOULD BE THE *FIRST THING* I DO AS *GOD?*

AND, *DUH,* GOD GAVE MAN *FIRE.*

THAT'S THE *ORIGINAL* REWARD.

SHAKE SHAKE

SO *HERE.*

AS MY *FIRST* ACT.

WHAT DO *YOU* SAY?

SHAKE
SHAKE

HALLELUJAH.

OLD FASHIONED FOR THE LADY.

PFFFFFFFFFFFT

2020.

FOR @$@#@% SAKE!

WHEN ARE *YOU* GOING TO *FIX* THIS?!

IT'S A *VIRUS.*

I CAN'T *PUNCH* IT.

YOU COULD--

@#$%#!

@$#% THIS @$%#%$# THING!

I CAN'T *BREATHE...* I CAN'T *TALK...*

@$@$%...

...YOU!

CRAKK

ARE YOU *FINISHED?*

@%$%!

I'M NOT *THREATENED* BY SICKNESS.

AND I *DOUBT* YOU ARE.

BUT THE *DOCTORS* AREN'T SURE IF *I* CAN CARRY IT.

MAYBE SOMEDAY I'M *HELPING* AN ELDERLY WOMAN FETCH HER *CAT* OUT OF A TREE...

...IF *I* WERE TO MAKE HER ILL...

NO, I'M NOT *@$@#@$%* *FINISHED!*

THANK YOU FOR *ASKING!*

SMACK

I'M *TIRED* OF ALL THIS @$#%!

WE'RE @$%##$% *SUPERHEROES,* AND THE WORLD IS *DYING!*

AND ALL *I'M* DOING IS SITTING AT @$%#@ HOME STARING AT MY *BLOODY PHONE!*

THAT'S *FUNNY.*

I NEVER THOUGHT OF *YOU* AS A *SUPERHERO.*

YEAH?

AND I NEVER THOUGHT OF *YOU* AS SOMEONE WHO *COULDN'T* PROTECT THE @$%@ WORLD!

YES YOU *DID.*

BLOODY *HELL.*

GIVE ME THE @$%@$ *THING,* YOU BIG BLUE *BASTARD.*

SO, HOW'S IT *WORK?*

EXCUSE ME?

NOW THAT YOU'RE *GOD* AND ALL...

...WHAT DO YOU DO *NEXT?*

I...

YOU KNOW *SOMETHING?*

I DON'T *KNOW.*

WELL, THAT IS A PHRASE YOU DON'T EXPECT FROM THE *OMNISCIENT.*

WHO KNEW THE LORD'S WORKS WERE MYSTERIOUS EVEN TO *HIM?*

YOU *MISUNDERSTAND.*

SUPPOSE THAT'S *MY FAULT,* IS IT?

STUPID *@$%%* *JENNY.*

ALWAYS EXPECTING GOD TO MAKE A *@%#@$* *COHERENT* POINT.

BLOOP

$@#$@$!

I AM YOUR *SAVIOR.*

YOU WILL *NOT* MOCK ME.

OH, YOU'RE THE *@$#$ SAVIOR,* EH?

BRILLIANT.

WHY DON'T *YOU @$@$ SAVE* US?!

WHEN I WAS A GIRL, THERE WEREN'T *PHONES.*

THERE WEREN'T EVEN @@$% *RADIOS* IN THE HOUSE.

YOU GOT THE *PAPER* IN THE MORNING AND EVENING.

BESIDES *THAT,* THE WORLD WAS WHATEVER THE *NEIGHBOR* WAS GOING ON ABOUT.

@$%$ *HEDGEHOGS* IN HER *DAISIES.*

WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A *@%$#* *PANDEMIC* IN 1918 UNTIL IT HAD ALREADY GONE THROUGH HALF THE $@#@$ POPULATION.

LOST TWO AUNTS, AN UNCLE, AND *THREE* COUSINS TO IT.

SCROLL
SCROLL
SCROLL

KILLED MORE PEOPLE THAN *THE WAR.*

AND THAT WAR WAS PRETTY @@#$% *GIFTED* WHEN IT CAME TO *KILLING.*

IT...

@$@%, IT JUST MAKES ME WANT TO *CRY.*

HERE, PLEASE.

LET ME HEAL YOU.

PISS OFF.

AAAAAAAH!

I SEE.

@%#@$%!

BEING A *GOD* ISN'T ABOUT *YOU.*

IT'S NOT *SELFISH* TO ACT AS YOU *ARE,* MS. SPARKS.

I HAVE MY EYES *OPEN.* I'M NOT *APOLOGIZING* FOR THAT.

YOU WERE A *FINE* SOLDIER, AND THEY *@#$@$%* YOU OVER.

SO YOU BECAME A *HERO.*

HOW *OPEN* WERE YOUR BLOODY EYES *THEN?*

I DON'T OWE *YOU* EXPLANATIONS.

MOST PEOPLE WHO GET HURT END UP HURTING OTHERS.

YOU @$%@ *HELPED.*

YOU DIDN'T OWE US @#@$ *THEN* EITHER.

THERE'S A *TIP* UNDER THE MAT.

APPRECIATE YOU.

YOU'RE THE ONE DOING EVERYONE THE FAVOR.

IS WHAT IT *IS.*

...

RIGHT.

HAVE A *GOOD* ONE, MA'AM.

PROBABLY SEE YOU *SOON.*

IS...IS THAT IT? YOU GOT WHAT YOU *WANTED?*

YOU'RE *GOD*, WE'RE *FREE?*

TALKED TO A *FRIEND* OF YOURS.

YOU WANT TO GO?

GO.

ABOUT YOUR LIFE AND HOW YOU *BECAME* WHO YOU BECAME.

IS IT *OKAY?* YOU WON'T--

EVEN ABOUT WHERE YOU *ENDED* UP.

IT'S *GOOD!* WE'RE DONE!

HE SAYS WE CAN GO!

IT'S A *HELL* OF A THING YOU DID.

LET'S *GO!*

FOR MOST MEN, *DYING* FOR YOUR COUNTRY IS ENOUGH.

PLEASE.

SQUEAK SQUEAK

BUT YOU, *EH?*

IT'S *OVER.*

VOLUNTEERING FOR *THAT* SHIP. BEING A *SUPERHERO.*

PLEASE.

YOU DIDN'T *DIE* FOR YOUR COUNTRY, YOU POOR *BASTARD.*

YOU *LIVED* FOR IT.

SEE, I FIGURED IT OUT, I DID. YOUR *PAIN* IS YOUR POWER.

THAT'S WHAT THE *SHIP* AND THE BOMB DID TO YOU.

DO YOU NEED ME TO *BURN* YOU AGAIN?

AND YOU DECIDED AT THE BEGINNING TO HOLD THAT *PAIN* INSIDE MOSTLY...

...USED JUST A *BIT* OF IT TO MAKE A *BETTER WORLD.*

SHUT... UP...

BUT EVENTUALLY IT *HAD* TO COME OUT. AND NOW YOU GOT IT *ALL.*

WAIT...

THIS, THIS *GOD* STUFF , RIGHT... IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO *IGNORE* THAT HURT.

EASIER TO FEEL *EVERYTHING* THAN *ANYTHING.*

I *WIN!*

AHAHAH!

@$%@$!

NO...

THERE NOW, ISN'T *THAT* BETTER?!

BEING *ABOVE* EVERYONE...

YOU...

YOU'RE A *RANDOM* COLLECTION OF *ATOMS!*

AND *I* AM YOUR *CAPTAIN!*

OH, CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN.

GO !$@#$ YOURSELF.

SLAP

2021.

HO HO, HEY HEY.

HOW MANY $@%$S YOU *KILL* TODAY?

@$#$@$!

YOU KNOW I ONCE SAILED THROUGH *THE BLEED.*

WITH A CROWD OF *MATES* THAT COULD SHAKE THE *MULTIVERSE.*

NOW WHERE THE *@$@$* AM I?

DOING *NOTHING,* WAITING FOR A DOCTOR TO *RESCUE* ME?

WAIT.

NO, HE'S NOT GOING TO *REALLY* PUT @$% OLD *CHILI FRIES* IN THAT APPLE PIE...

@$%€#$.

WHO DO YOU THINK *YOU* ARE?

SAID IT ONCE, CAN'T SAY IT *ENOUGH.*

PISS OFF.

WHO THE *@$$%* DO YOU THINK *YOU* ARE?!

I'M WHO I *ALWAYS* WAS.

JUST A GIRL SEARCHING FOR *THE LIGHT.*

WHAT...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

AM I *DEAD* AGAIN?

I USED TO *ADMIRE* YOU. I DID.

DUDE, ONLY THING I KNOW IN THIS WHOLE @$%#-UP WORLD...

...IS I MISS MY *DOG*.

WHEN YOU WERE THE *JUSTICE LEAGUER*.

Happy HOUR

PLEASE, PLEASE BE OKAY.

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE OF THEM ~~@$%$S~~ NOT LAUGHING.

YOU'RE OKAY, I LOVE YOU. OKAY, I'M SORRY, OKAY.

ALL THAT *POWER* AND THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE. BUT *YOU* WERE TRYING TO ACTUALLY DO THE #@$@ *JOB*.

WE'RE GETTING NEAR THE END NOW, HON. REAL CLOSE.

"NOW *LOOK* AT YOU.

"WHAT A $@$% *TRAGEDY* YOU ARE."

I'M *TIRED* OF YOU. *ALL* OF YOU.

IT TOOK *SIX DAYS* FOR THE OTHER ONE TO WEAR OUT.

I DON'T THINK YOU'VE HAD THE TITLE FOR MORE THAN SIX *HOURS.*

YOU THINK YOU'RE *BRAVE?* BECAUSE YOU STAND THERE AND *INSULT* ME?

IT'S JUST *PATHETIC.*

WHY DIDN'T YOU *HELP* THESE PEOPLE?

ALL THEY'RE DOING IS *SUFFERING.*

I *CURED* A MAN.

YOU DON'T KNOW *ANYTHING.*

NO. NO, I TALKED TO *HIM.* HE WAS BLOODY *MISERABLE.*

YOU ROBBED HIM OF HIS *WIFE.*

YOU KNOW *WHAT?*

@$%@ YOU.

SNAP

KABOOM

I SPENT MY WHOLE @$%#% *LIFE* THINKING *I* WAS THE PERSON WHO COULD SAVE THIS @$#% WORLD.

THAT *I* HAD THE POWER AND THE AUTHORITY TO @%@# SET IT *RIGHT.*

AND WHAT *HAPPENED?!* I FOUND OUT I COULDN'T DO A *BLOODY @$@% THING!*

ALL MY LIGHTNING AND ALL MY HISTORY ADDED UP TO A PILE OF DRIED-UP OLD *#$%@!*

YOU...YOU HAVE THE ABILITY... YOU HAVE WHAT I *NEVER* COULD GET!

AND WHAT DO *YOU* @$#% DO?!

@$#% YOU.

OKAY, THIS'LL JUST TAKE A *SECOND.*

THERE YOU *GO.*

YOU HAVE THE *PAMPHLET* IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

IS *THAT* IT?

ALL *DONE.*

FINE.

JUST HURRY UP AND *MURDER* ME.

I'M BORED TO @#%$ DEATH WITH ALL THE *CHAT.*

I *FIXED* IT.

OH, HELLO.

DID YOU?

HAVE A *LOOK.*

EVERY GOD I MEET PLAYS @$%# *TRICKS* ON ME.

DIVINITY SCHOOL MUST BE A BARREL OF @$%# *LAUGHS.*

ALL RIGHT, MY *LORD.*

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU *GOT.*

TAYLOR'S Bar

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE *21ST CENTURY* NOW, *JENNIFER?*

IS IT EVERYTHING YOU *HOPED* IT WOULD BE?

TO BE CONCLUDED!

Jenny Sparks #7
variant cover art
by Gene Ha

TOUCH ME NOT...

...FOR I AM NOT YET ASCENDED TO MY FATHER.

BUT GO TO MY BRETHREN, AND SAY UNTO THEM...

...I ASCEND UNTO MY FATHER, AND YOUR FATHER...

...AND TO MY GOD...

...AND YOUR GOD.

I DON'T *UNDERSTAND.*

HE KILLED MY *DOG.*

DAVEY.

KILLED ISN'T THE *RIGHT* WORD.

HE'S A *DIRECTOR.* HE HAD A *BOMB* ON HIS HANDS.

STRETCH

HE STARTED *OVER.*

HAVE YOU GONE *NUTS?*

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY *KIDS?*

THIS IS A *CHILD'S* REACTION.

IT'S *HIGHLY* TYPICAL.

HE CAN'T *FIX* IT, SO HE *BROKE* IT.

I THINK IT'S *BEAUTIFUL.*

YOU GOT A *LIGHT?*

WHAT THE @$@$ ARE YOU DOING?!

PARDON?

I'VE BEEN HERE ALL THIS TIME SERVING YOU @$% PEOPLE!

AND THE WHOLE TIME DAVEY'S AT HOME THERE WAITING FOR ME!

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW!

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS CRAP! HE JUST WANTS ME TO COME HOME!

AND NOW WHAT?! CHRIST ALMIGHTY... SOMEONE'S GOT TO TELL ME!

NOW WHAT?!

TAYLOR. *PLEASE.*

WE'RE BUILDING A *BETTER* WORLD.

CAPTAIN, STOP, MAN. LAY OFF.

DUDE *JUST* LOST HIS...HIS *DOG,* MAN...

IT'S NOT FAIR...

YOU THINK *I'M* AFRAID OF THAT WALKING POLISHED *TURD?*

I AM *GOD.*

SHOULDN'T YOU BE?

CAPTAIN, NO, C'MON... YOU *HEAR* ME?

YOW

LAY OFF!

OH @$#%#.

YOU...*HIT* ME! YOU PATHETIC... I *SAVED* YOU!

YOU ARE THE *ONLY* THING LEFT IN THE ENTIRE *EVERYTHING!*

TOUCH ME NOT...

IT'S JUST HIS *DOG*, MAN.

HE GOT *UPSET.* WHO WOULDN'T GET THROWN OVER *A DOG?*

YOU'RE A *BULLY.*

LEAVE *THEM* ALONE.

C'MON, HE'S NOT A *BULLY.* OR, Y'KNOW, *JUST* A BULLY.

HE'S ALSO A *LOSER.*

ERICA...

YOUR HUSBAND'S *GONE.* SO ARE YOUR *TWINS.*

HELL, DANIELLE, WHAT THE *@#$@* DO YOU HAVE TO *LOSE?*

I SAVED YOU!

DO YOU KNOW HOW SMALL YOU ARE?!

FOR @$%@$ SAKE, CAPTAIN.

THEY'RE NOT YOUR FRIENDS-- THEY'RE YOUR HOSTAGES.

YOU THINK I'M A FOOL!

WELL, I ALREADY SAID I THINK YOU'RE GOD, SO...

YEAH, SUPPOSE YOU'D HAVE TO BE A FOOL, WOULDN'T YOU?

OPEN YOUR EYES! SEE WHAT I DID!

CAN'T YOU FOR ONCE IN YOUR @%#€ LIFE BE GRATEFUL?!

SHE'S NOT SMALL!

YOU...

SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN.

I'M *FOREVER* SCARED OF WHO *I* AM.

DO YOU KNOW HOW *TIRED* YOU GET TO BE, LIVING YOUR LIFE RUNNING AWAY FROM *YOURSELF?*

NO, THAT'S A *STUPID* QUESTION.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW *THAT.*

BUT SHE ISN'T LIKE YOU AND ME, *CAP.*

SHE JUST GOES AND KNOWS *WHO* SHE IS AND *ACCEPTS* IT.

IT'S... *INCOMPREHENSIBLE* TO ME.

TO PUT ASIDE ALL THE... THE...*JUDGING* THAT EVERYONE WOULD DO...I DON'T *GET* IT.

BUT I GET *THIS,* OKAY?

THIS I UNDERSTAND IN MY *SOUL* AS MUCH I UNDERSTAND ANY *DAMN* THING.

SEEING YOURSELF FOR WHO YOU ARE AND *NOT* RUNNING.

JUST *STANDING* THERE, STILL AND *PROUD.*

THAT'S BIGGER THAN *GOD'LL* EVER BE.

SIR, HOW ABOUT *A LIGHT?*

YES, MA'AM.

I *HATE* THESE THINGS.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO?*

AAAAH!

OH, CAPTAIN.

AGAIN?

DAMN THEM.

Happy HOUR

THAT FEEL *GOOD?*

THAT'S ALL WE SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT *NOW,* RIGHT?

WHETHER *YOU* FEEL GOOD OR NOT.

THAT'S WHAT RELIGION *IS,* FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER.

JUST A BUNCH OF @$#@$ DEDICATING *THEIR* TIME TO MAKING YOU HAPPY.

IT'S NOT *SUPPOSED* TO BE THIS WAY.

Happy HOUR

IF ONLY THERE WAS *SOMEONE* TO BLAME...

YOU'RE *RIGHT*, YOU KNOW.

OH, *BLESS* YOU, DARLING.

WHAT *YOU* SAID BEFORE. MY *PAIN* IS MY POWER AND ALL *THAT*.

I USED TO HOLD IT *BACK*, AND THEN I LET IT GO AND NOW...

GREAT.

JUST WHEN WE NEED A *DRINK*, THE BARTENDER'S *DEAD*.

AND ON THE *FIRST* DAY HE MADE WINE.

AND HE SAW THAT IT WAS *FINE.*

THAT'S NOT REALLY HOW *THAT* GOES, *STRICTLY* SPEAKING.

WELL, IT IS *NOW.*

I'M *NOT TOASTING* WITH YOU.

MOSTLY BECAUSE YOU OBLITERATED THE WORLD AND *EVERYONE* IN IT.

WHICH IS *BLOODY RUDE,* IF YOU ASK ME.

FAIR ENOUGH.

WHEN ARE YOU KILLING *ME?*

SOON.

YOU KNOW WHO *I* MOST ENJOYED *DRINKING* WITH?

IN THIS WHOLE *ETERNAL, GOD-AWFUL* LIFE OF MINE?

HAWKSMOOR?

AH, *@$#%* NO.

ALL THE MAN WANTED TO CHAT ABOUT WAS HIS ENTIRELY *TOO-INTIMATE* RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOTHAM *SEWER* SYSTEM.

SICK @#%@ STUFF.

HAHAHA.

NO, NO, NO.

THE *FINEST* DRINKING COMPANION I *EVER* HAD WAS ONE *VIRGINIA WOOLF.*

ISN'T SHE *A PLAY?*

AH, YOU IGNORANT *@$#%.* I'D BE *MAD* AT YOU FOR THAT.

BUT I DON'T THINK THE *FIRST GOD* BOTHERED TO KNOW HER *EITHER.*

SHE *KILLED* HERSELF, YOU KNOW.

STROLLED INTO THE OCEAN WITH POCKETS FULL OF ROCKS AND *DROWNED* IN THE WAVES.

SHOULD I BE *SORRY?*

SHE'D SPENT HER WHOLE LIFE *WRITING* AND *TALKING,* TRYING TO CREATE SOMETHING *EXQUISITE.*

THEN THE WORLD WAR SEQUEL GOT ITS *BIG PREMIERE.*

VIRGINIA'S *HOUSE* WAS WIPED OUT IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE *BLITZ...*

...AND SHE COULDN'T *FACE* THAT.

AFTER ALL THAT TIME *STRUGGLING* AGAINST IT, JUST TO SEE THE TROUBLES *RISE* AGAIN ALL THE SAME.

THE YEARS AHEAD, *FASCISM* ON THE MARCH, LIVING THROUGH *ANOTHER* DISASTER...

SHE WROTE TO HER *HUSBAND...*

...AS SHE WAS PLACING HER *STONES...*

"DEAREST, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT I AM GOING MAD AGAIN.

"I FEEL WE CAN'T GO THROUGH ANOTHER OF THOSE TERRIBLE TIMES."

BACK THEN, I WAS RIGHT *ANGRY* AT HER.

WE NEEDED TO *FIGHT.* AND SHE JUST STEPPED *WETLY* AWAY FROM IT ALL.

AND THEN WHEN THE WAR WAS *OVER*...THAT *V*-FOR-VICTORY TRIUMPH...

...I WAS LIKE, WHAT A *DUMB BUTT,* THAT *VIRGINIA WOOLF.*

SHE DIDN'T KNOW WE *BEAT* BACK THE *TIDE.*

TAYLOR'S Bar

WE @%#%$@# *WON.*

BUT *I* WAS WRONG, AND *SHE* WAS RIGHT.

WE DIDN'T WIN @$%@.

THE TIDE KEPT *COMING.*

FIRST IT TOOK HER.

THEN...

...THEN... THEN...THEN... ENDLESS @$@$% *THEN.*

BLOODY *HELL,* CAPTAIN.

I GOT MY HEAD *KICKED* IN.

JENNY... I CAN MAKE IT *NICE.*

I CAN.

WE'RE *BEYOND* THAT NOW, I THINK.

YOUR POWER IS *PAIN.* WHAT DID *PAIN* EVER ACCOMPLISH?

WE SHOULD DO *SOMETHING.* WE HAVE TO MAKE A *BETTER WORLD.*

DON'T WE?

YEAH, WELL, SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T DO WHAT YOU *HAVE* TO DO.

JUST LOOK AT *ME.*

I...I... CAN'T JUMP, I GUESS. I'M NOT THAT *BRAVE.*

WHO KNEW?

JENNY...

C'MON, LORD, IT'S TIME TO BID *TOODLE-OO* TO THE *TWENTIETH CENTURY.*

AND @$%#@$ *GOOD* RIDDANCE, *I* SAY.

EVERYONE HAS A *TIME.*

VIRGINIA USED TO TELL THIS *STORY.* ABOUT THIS GIRL AND BOY IN A *DARK* PLACE.

THE GIRL *SAW* HIM. HE SAID HER NAME. SHE PUT OUT HER *HAND* TO HOLD ON TO HIM.

AND HE TOLD HER *NO.*

AND HE WENT *ON.*

LEAVING HER TO GO BACK *ALONE.*

NNN.

IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.

LET IT *PASS.*

Happy
HOUR
Happy
HOUR
Happy
HOUR

SNAP

I SEE.

LATER.

YOU ERADICATED THE *MULTIVERSE.*

AND YET, SOMEHOW, YOU'RE *STILL* LECTURING ME.

MY *GOD*...SO TO SPEAK.

THIS ISN'T *A JOKE.*

NO, WHEN HE TOOK YOUR *MASK* OFF *YOUR* DEAD BODY AND *WORE* IT, *THAT* WAS A JOKE.

NOT A *FUNNY* ONE, MIND YOU, BUT IT MEETS THE BASIC *CRITERIA* IS ALL I'M ASSERTING.

JENNIFER SPARKS, YOU HAVE *RESPONSIBILITIES.*

AND THERE, FINALLY, YOU CUT TO THE @#$% *TRUTH* OF IT ALL.

"WHEN YOU TOLD ME THE PROBLEM ALL THEM DAYS AGO, I *TESTED* HIM.

"ASSESSED *HIS* LIMITS AND *OUR* LIABILITIES.

"SEEMED TO ME HE HAD TOO MUCH IN HIM TO *PUNCH* HIM INTO DEFEAT IN THE TRADITIONAL *SUPERHERO* FASHION.

"AS *YOU* BLOKES APTLY CONFIRMED BY GETTING WHIPPED LIKE CREAM. *THANK YOU* FOR THAT.

"ALL RIGHT, THEN, WE HAD TO GO *ANOTHER* WAY.

"GET THE *CAPTAIN* TO DO THE HEAVY @$%# LIFTING.

"FOR THAT, I HAD TO GET IN HIS LITTLE, METAL *HEAD.*

"FIGURED THE *SHRINK* WHO WAS WITH HIM WOULD HAVE THE INSIGHT *I NEEDED.*

"SO I SPRUNG THAT KIND *CHAP,* AND WE HAD A *FINE* DISCUSSION.

"USED WHAT I LEARNED THERE TO PRESS CAP'S BUTTONS *JUST* THE RIGHT WAY.

"SO THAT HE *POPPED* EVERYTHING OUT OF EXISTENCE.

"UNFORTUNATELY, FOR HIS OWN @%#@$#-UP REASONS, HE LEFT A FEW OF US *ALIVE.*

"BUT THAT LAST *HICCUP* WAS...RESOLVED BY THEM COURAGEOUS @$$%@ HOSTAGES.

"WHO SAVED *INFINITE BLOODY UNIVERSES.* TRUE @$%@ *HEROES,* IF YOU ASK ME."

"YOU UNDERSTAND, DETECTIVE...BOY SCOUT?

"HE WANTED TO BE *GOD*, RIGHT?

"THE SOLUTION WAS TO LET HIM *DO* IT."

ARROOOF! ARROOOF!

"SEE, ALL *GOD* CAN DO IS THE *NECESSARY*.

"HE CAN ONLY CREATE WHAT ONLY *HE* CAN CREATE.

"THAT @%#@ CAN'T EVEN LET HIS MOST *BELOVED* FOLLOWER TOUCH HIM.

"THERE YOU GO, THEN.

"START AT THE *BEGINNING* WITH WHATEVER INTENTIONS YOU HAVE, AND YOU'LL END UP *RIGHT* WHERE YOU USED TO BE.

"PIECE BY PIECE, ATOM BY ATOM, RIGHT TO THE *NOW*.

"GOD CAN'T CHANGE THE @$@$ WORLD.

"THAT HOARY, BEARDED BASTARD *IS* THE @$%#% WORLD.

"STRIPPED OF *EVERYTHING*, THE CAPTAIN FINALLY HAD NO MORE MOVES, *DIDN'T* HE?

"WHEN THERE'S *NOTHING* TO TEAR DOWN, YOU GOT TO BUILD.

"AND THUS, HE DID. A-@$%@$-MEN.

"AND HE *SAW* WHAT HE HAD DONE, AND IT WAS THE SAME, AND HE DID IT *AGAIN*.

"AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN THE WORLD DIED, AND AGAIN HE REBUILT IT."

"UNTIL *FINALLY* HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT I'D BEEN *TELLING* HIM.

"WHAT *ALL* THOSE PEOPLE IN THAT BAR WERE *TEACHING* HIM."

DAVEY!

I'M HOME.

"HE DISCOVERED THE ONLY THING *HE* CAN CHANGE IS *HIMSELF.*"

WE...

WE HAVE, *UH*...I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A *TALK.*

"THEN EITHER HE *KEEPS* LOOPING AROUND TRYING TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD AND COMING UP WITH THIS @%@$ ONE..."

I, *UH*, STOPPED DRINKING. BUT I THINK I GOT A TAB HERE.

HOPING TO PAY UP AND GO.

"...OR HE *LEARNS.*"

CAN WE LEARN ANYTHING *MORAL* FROM FILM? NO, OF COURSE NOT.

BUT WE CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER *TALKING* ABOUT FILM. WHY DON'T WE *TRY* THAT?

"YOU GOT TO FIND A WAY TO *LOVE* YOUR PAIN..."

THESE ARE FOR YOU.

IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'LL DO FOR NOW, I GUESS.

"...AND THEN YOU GOT TO FIND A WAY TO *LEAVE* IT."

OH, YES, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU. WE WERE EXPECTING YOU.

SOMEONE LEFT SOMETHING FOR YOU.

YOU *COULDN'T* HAVE KNOWN...

I *DIDN'T.* NOT WHEN I DIED IN *1999.*

BUT LIKE THE CAPTAIN, *I* LEARNED.

WHEN I WOKE, WHEN I EXPERIENCED YOUR *WASTE* OF A CENTURY...

YOU DON'T *FIGHT* LIFE.

YOU *LIVE* IT.

TAYLOR'S Bar

BEST YOU @$%@$ CAN.

AND AT SOME POINT, YOU STOP ASKING FOR *THE LIGHT.*

AND FIND YOUR *OWN* FIRE.

IT'S A *SANDWICH.*

THERE'S, *UH,* ALSO A *MESSAGE.*

A *HAM* SANDWICH, RYE, LETTUCE, NO TOMATO, MAYO AND MUSTARD.

I TOLD HER I DIDN'T WANT TO *SAY* IT, BUT SHE WAS VERY... *PERSUASIVE,* YOU KNOW.

SHE SAID...*UH*...*SHE* SAID...

...TRY IT *AGAIN* AND SHE'LL, *UH,* WELL, SHE SAID...

...SHE'D *FRY* YOUR...AN EXPLETIVE FOR COPULATING... *TESTICLES* OFF.

ALL RIGHT, THEN...THAT'S *DONE*...

WHO THE *@$@$* IS NEXT?

THE END.

Jenny Sparks #1
variant cover art
by Homare

Jenny Sparks **#1**
variant cover art
by Saowee

"I am who I always was. Just a girl searching for the light."

"*Jenny Sparks* is a fantastic look into the classic Authority question of the usefulness of superheroes, showcasing how these heroes would respond to world events." –**Comic Watch**

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